



In **The Guardian G2** today: The infants Liam and Noel on the sofa... Is this the new American art?

+ Elizabeth Wurzel, Read my lips + Women + Health + Education + Television, Radio and European Weather

Council faces £750,000 race payout

Award to official falsely accused of corruption is biggest ever

Helen Carter

THE biggest ever race discrimination payout, expected to be up to £750,000, will be made next month by a council which claims to lead the field in equal opportunities to a senior official who suffered "four years of living hell" at the hands of a colleague.

Sam Yeboah, a magistrate and former head of personnel at Hackney council in east London, had been subjected to a campaign of false allegations by housing director Bernard Crofton, who had "a fixed mental impression that Africans, particularly West Africans, have a propensity to commit fraud", the tribunal found.

After a 104-day hearing, an industrial tribunal yesterday found Mr Crofton — who had been praised for rooting out corruption in the borough — guilty of five race discrimination charges.

Mr Yeboah, aged 52, of Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, is waiting to hear how much compensation he will receive. The payout, which will be decided next month, will take into account his £55,000-a-year salary and the fact that he has been unable to work for two years.

The figure is expected to dwarf the previous highest payout in a race discrimination case, the £350,000 awarded last year to a computer operator at Lambeth council.

The figure may also cover injury to Mr Yeboah's feelings, loss of future earnings and his claims that he is "effectively unemployed" because of the serious nature of the allegations against him.

A spokesman for the Commission for Racial Equality said: "It will undoubtedly be one of the biggest ever awards but we cannot speculate about exactly how much."

The tribunal's 300-page ruling said: "A striking feature of this case has been the number and persistence of false allegations which Mr Crofton has made against Mr Yeboah. The totality of the evidence has led us to the conclusion that Mr Crofton did, and does have a fixed mental impression that Africans, particularly West Africans, have a propensity to commit fraud."

Mr Yeboah, who has been unemployed since he left his job at the start of 1996, said: "This is the first time I have been publicly vindicated, but it does not make up for what I have been through. I have been through a living hell for the last four years."

"This was a direct attack on the colour of my skin. If someone attacks you on this basis, something you have no control over, it is extremely hurtful and distressing. Hackney



Bernard Crofton (above) had 'a fixed impression that Africans, particularly West Africans, have a propensity to commit fraud'

councillors failed to act on their own anti-discrimination policy and allowed these lies to continue."

He said no amount of money could compensate him or his family for his suffering. Hackney Council has had 99 claims of race discrimination filed against it in the past five years. Last year it was forced to pay £172,000 to a waiter of Chinese origin who had been bullied and humiliated by managers because his face did not fit.

The dispute between the two former council officials dates back more than six years, when Mr Crofton instructed an audit of all staff, with the aim of rooting out fraud.

Mr Yeboah objected and said the consultants had no right to inspect confidential files. A compromise was reached and Mr Crofton's inquiries into dozens of cases of employment, tenancy and housing benefit fraud saved the council an estimated £3 million.

The discrimination claim was triggered by a memo sent by Mr Crofton which made accusations of fraud, which he wrongly accused Mr Yeboah of covering up.

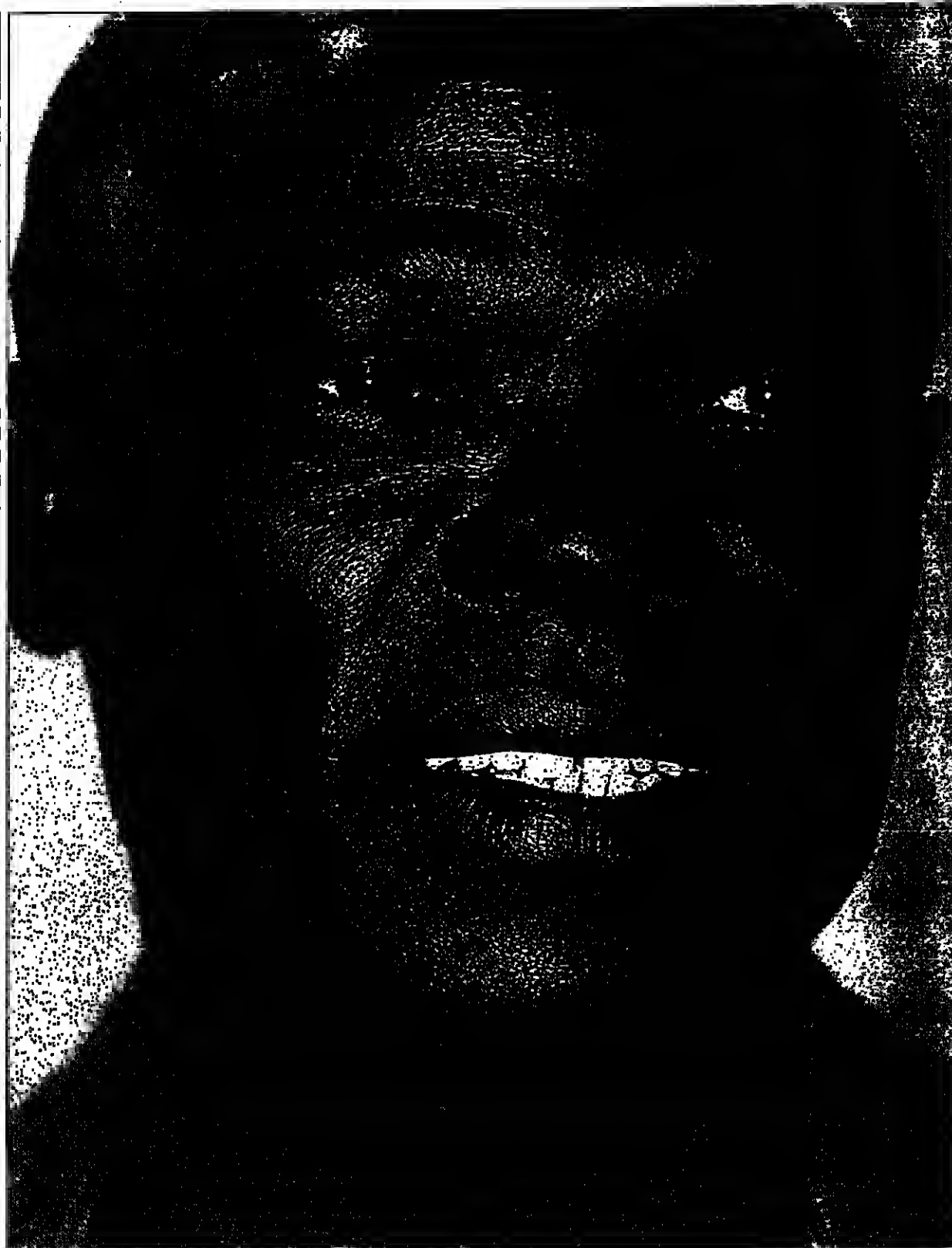
He had Mr Yeboah's name put on a list of suspects sent to the Fraud Squad for investigation, while a member of a special tenancy investigation group made inquiries about his immigration status.

After an inquiry, Mr Crofton was sacked for racial harassment in 1996, but was later reinstated by an appeals sub-committee of Hackney councillors.

An independent 12-month inquiry commissioned by Hackney council and headed by Ian McDonald QC in 1996 found that there was no evidence of "any major conspiracy to defraud the council" and accused Mr Crofton of fostering an atmosphere where black employees were subjected to a witch-hunt.

Hackney council said in a statement that they had been taking major steps to tackle discrimination. "We deeply regret that any member of staff should suffer discrimination and victimisation. We will be studying the decisions of the industrial tribunal in detail to ensure that we learn any lessons for the future," it said.

Mr Crofton now works as a consultant for a housing association and was unavailable for comment.



Sam Yeboah, who could get £750,000. He said no amount could compensate for family's suffering PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW STUART

"I have been through a living hell for the last four years. This was a direct attack on the colour of my skin. If someone attacks you on this basis, something you have no control over, it is extremely hurtful and distressing. Hackney councillors failed to act on their own anti-discrimination policy and allowed these lies to continue"

Sam Yeboah, ex-head of personnel, Hackney council

Fairy tale grows up into a sensual mermaid's dream

Review

Tim Ashley

Rusalka

Coliseum, London

RECOGNISED as a landmark in operatic staging when it was unveiled in 1983, David Pountney's production of Dvorak's *Rusalka*, now revived at the Coliseum by Lynn Binstock, has lost little of its clout.

Its brilliance lies in its radical reinterpretation of its fairy-tale subject matter. Dvorak drew on a number of sources — Czech folklore, Hans Andersen, the German Undine legend (which also provided Frederick Ashton with the material for his ballet *Undine*) — for his fable of the catastrophic passion of a water nymph for a mortal.

Pountney took the lot and allied it with Freud: *The Little Mermaid* collides with *The Interpretation of Dreams* (which was published in 1900, the year the opera was written). His fairy tale evolves as the fantastic dream of an adolescent girl — alternately fascinated and repelled by images of sexuality — as she sleeps in her nursery. Her mermaid's tail — it's still one of the most upstaging theatrical images — consists of bandages which bind her legs together. The three Wood Nymphs, content with remaining in their element, are her childish, game-playing younger sisters. The adonitory Water Sprite, called "grandfather" throughout, is an aged, wheelchair-bound figure in his second childhood, while the witch Jezibaba, who both helps and hinders Rusalka's progress to womanhood, is an ambivalent governess, comic and malign.

There are hints, however, of the infliction of horrific emotional wounds — whether potential or actual — we are not told — from the adult world around her: the Prince she loves is an older man, weak-willed and duplicitous, who calls her "tragic" when she rejects his sexual violence; the rival Princess is a cynical, manipulative *femme du monde* in a red dress and furs, bent on destruction. Some of Pountney's images now seem over-familiar: more than any other Coliseum staging, it defined the house style during the "Powerhouse" years, and spawned numerous imitations, many of which have vanished. Time hasn't lessened its impact, however, and it remains one of ENO's finest achievements.

Musically, it is mixed. Richard Hickox conducts a big, bold performance, perfectly attuned to Pountney's vision, unleashing an unstoppable flood of heady emotion and finding wifely Wagnerian influences which you don't normally hear in the score. The American soprano Susan Patterson sings Rusalka. She suggests maladjusted gawkiness rather than the waif-like innocence which some have brought to the role. Her voice is a knockout — colossal, rich and opulent — though she occasionally sounds too mature in the role. The Prince, Robert Brubaker, is compelling but makes a big, rather unsuitable sound. Catherine Savory reveals a fruity mezzo as Jezibaba, though the voice is on the small side and she's not nearly dominant enough. Janice Cairns is imposing rather than alluring as the Princess. John Connell's Water Sprite, occasionally unfocused, is elegiac rather than vengeful. The orchestral sound, once past a couple of rocky moments in the first act, is unfailingly sumptuous.

Republicans press for impeachment powers

US politicians are divided on who should see Starr's Clinton report

Martin Kettle in Washington

IMPROVEMENT proceedings against President Bill Clinton could begin as early as next month if his Republican opponents obtain unprecedented procedural powers to speed the congressional inquiry into the Monica Lewinsky affair.

As Congress returns from its summer break today, with mid-term elections looming, Republicans on the House of Representatives Judiciary committee are seeking to draw up

charges against Mr Clinton soon after the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr, presents his report to the committee later this month.

Henry Hyde, the Republican committee chairman, proposes excluding the rest of congress initially. He wants the full report circulated only to a bipartisan inner group on his committee, and he wants the power to charge reluctant witnesses with contempt without a full House vote.

Mr Hyde's proposals have alarmed congressional Democrats and even some Republi-

cans. Gerald Solomon, the Republican chairman of the House rules committee which must sanction the procedural plans, insists an executive summary of Mr Starr's report must be available to all members of Congress and that the full version should be published if the judiciary committee proposes impeachment.

House Democrats, who have complained about the "nearly unchecked powers" Mr Hyde seeks, have persuaded top Republicans to join a Capitol Hill summit tomorrow to thrash out the bitter procedural arguments.

Tomorrow's meeting will be attended by Mr Hyde and John Conyers, the senior Democrat on the judiciary

committee, as well as the House Speaker, Newt Gingrich; the House Republican leader, Dick Armey; and the House Democratic leader, Dick Gephardt.

Mr Gingrich is said to be anxious to find bipartisan agreement so as to minimise charges of partisan bias. Any changes in the procedural rules must be voted on by the whole 435-seat House, in which the Republicans have an 11-seat majority.

Under the United States constitution, the House has the sole task of deciding whether a president should be impeached, drawing up the charges — "articles of impeachment". The 100-member Senate, with the chief justice

presiding, then conducts a trial. Leaks said Mr Starr's report will concentrate entirely on the Lewinsky affair, in which Mr Clinton is accused of lying under oath about his affair with the former White House intern and pressuring her to do likewise.

The report is expected to contain "voluminous attachments", including excerpts from grand jury testimony and other evidence. The White House is braced for further intimate details about Mr Clinton's sexual relations with Ms Lewinsky.

The date when the report will go to Congress remains Washington's most closely guarded secret. Mr Starr is

under political pressure to submit it as soon as possible because all House members face elections on November 3, and most want to adjourn at the beginning of October.

Some legislators argue that Congress should remain in session well into October to complete work on the report. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York, a Democratic opponent of the president, said: "We have to do our duty here."

Meanwhile, the pressure on Mr Clinton continued yesterday when the head of the Southern Baptist Convention said the president, who is a Baptist, should resign "before he is instrumental in corrupting all our young people".

Lone Atlantic rower gives up after rescue

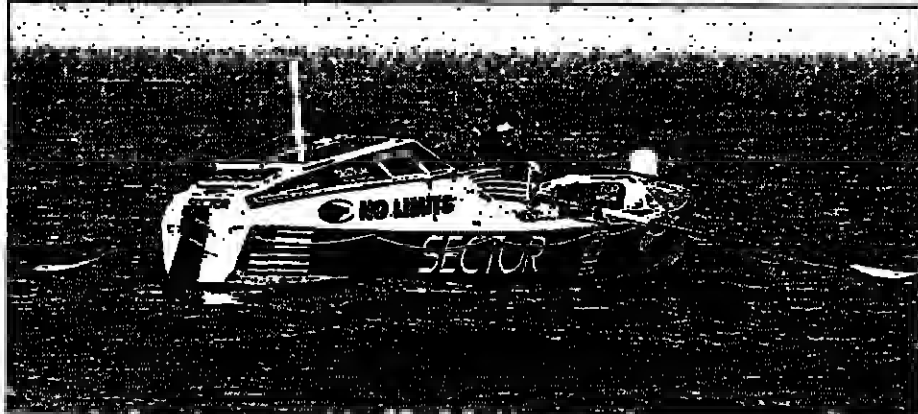
Geoffrey Gibbs

AN American rower has abandoned her attempt to become the first woman to cross the Atlantic alone after being rescued by a US-bound container ship assisted by Cornish coastguards and an RAF Nimrod.

Tori Murden was last night heading for Philadelphia after a medical check-up following a head injury. Her boat was left drifting 1,000 miles west of Land's End.

British coastguards launched an air and sea search for the 35-year-old rowwoman early yesterday, after signals from an emergency beacon on board her 23ft boat American Pearl were picked up by satellite. By coincidence, coastguard officers in Falmouth had only minutes earlier received a call from their counterparts in Norfolk, Virginia asking for information about Ms Murden, who had not been heard from since Saturday when her boat was lying in the path of the oncoming Hurricane Danielle.

The veteran adventurer, a



Tori Murden sets off for France from North Carolina in June PHOTOGRAPH: BOB JORDAN

lawyer in the mayor's office in Louisville, Kentucky, was spotted standing on board her self-righting craft by an RAF Nimrod sent to the scene when the emergency beacon signals were picked up. She was facing force six winds and sea swell of up to 12ft.

Falmouth Coastguard spokesman Bob Hurrell said the rower had capsized earlier in the day and banged her head. "She capsized twice be-

fore at the tail end of Hurricane Bonnie, and this time she got the tail end of Hurricane Danielle."

Ms Murden had been alone at sea since June 14 when she set off from Oregon Inlet, North Carolina. She is also an experienced mountaineer and canoeist.

She was the youngest member of the International South Pole Overland Expedition that skied 750 miles across

Antarctica to the geographic South Pole, and was the first woman to climb Lewis Nunatak, in the Antarctic.

Only five rowers, all men, have made the 3,500 mile Atlantic crossing single-handed. Ms Murden, who had been heading for Brest, France, had averaged 26 nautical miles a day during her epic 85-day journey and was more than two thirds of the way to her destination.

DOVER/CALAIS.
OVER 100 CROSSINGS EVERYDAY.

Enjoy
the choice.
Enjoy
the change.

Calais
begins with sea

P&O STENA LINE, SEAFRANCE
& ROVERSPED.



Secrets of the sea... hydrate exists in vast quantities a few metres below the ocean floor on the edge of continents

PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEASER

Beneath the ocean bed lies enough frozen fuel to power the planet for centuries

Tim Radford
Science Editor

A NEWLY-discovered source of frozen fuel packed below the ocean floor could power the planet for centuries.

If scientists can think of a safe way to tap it, the vast untapped energy source that is locked away in methane compressed into solid form by the weight of the ocean above it could be double all the coal, natural gas and oil ever burned, or likely to be burned.

The ocean is 70 per cent of the planet, and the Earth's last unexplored region. Oceanographers have pointed out repeatedly that the surfaces of Venus and Mars are better mapped than the ocean floor. But that could change with the gradual revelation of huge potential resources, now including awesome stores of energy frozen in veins and lodes in the ocean muds.

The frozen methane exists on the edge of continents in mud a few metres below the ocean floor in a layer a few hundred metres thick. It is produced by bacteria feeding on the sediment and producing methane as a waste product.

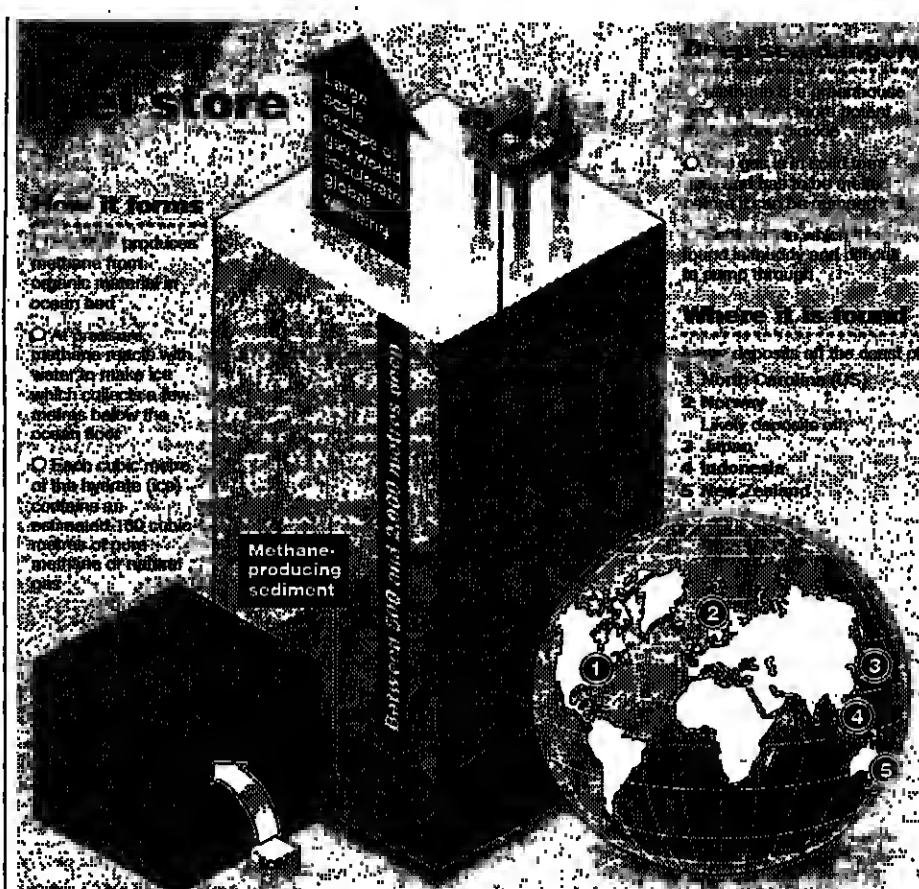
At huge pressures, this methane reacts with ultra-cold water to turn into a kind of room temperature ice, to be preserved for millions of years. This product of natural chemistry is called a hydrate. Each cubic metre of the hydrate contains an estimated 160 cubic metres of pure methane, or natural gas.

World oil reserves are finite: world oil production is expected to peak in the next decade and then start falling. But demand for energy is likely to go on rising exponentially. A new source of fuel would be regarded as a kind of gold. But like gold, methane hydrates could be difficult to exploit.

"It's in fine grained sediment, it's deep in the oceans, we think it is spread in quite thin layers — we don't know for sure — and somebody has to try and get it out," said Joe Cann, of the Natural Environment Research Council's British mid-ocean ridge research group. "There are lodes, there are veins, there are tiny little dusty bits. We still know very little about it."

One proposal has been to pump warm water down into the sediments to release the gas. Another has been to suck it up through drill pipes. "Or should you put some kind of enormous tent under the sea floor and begin to decompose it on a large scale underneath the tent, and collect the bubbles and lead them up to the surface? There are all sorts of possibilities — but it is not going to be like getting natural gas out from under the sea floor," Prof Cann said.

Scientists have known about hydrates for more than a decade, but the staggering scale of the potential submarine wealth became apparent only very recently, after



ocean drilling and seismic experiments.

Hydrate concentrations have been detected by scientific drilling experiments off North Carolina in the US and off Norway. A sudden escape

of the gas 7,000 years ago may have triggered a tsunami or tidal wave which swamped Shetland and washed huge boulders ashore. It could happen again: exploitation could even result in a sudden submarine landslide which could trigger calamity on the crowded shore line.

But paradoxically, according to Dr Clennell, the methane ice is already concentrated in the zones of greatest

natural danger. The biggest sources seemed to be where tectonic plates meet, off Japan, Indonesia, New Zealand and so on — the Pacific "ring of fire" marked out by continual earthquakes and volcanoes.

Exploiting the new submarine bonanza would not only be difficult and dangerous in the short term, it would be a problem in the long term as well. Methane is a greenhouse gas, 10 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

Any large-scale escapes would accelerate global warming. But the hydrates remain a tantalising prize. Japan is investing huge sums in research because it has no fossil fuel reserves. India, too, is interested in the energy El Dorado under the sea off its coast. The US is also interested in the phenomenon as a source of clean fuel.

"We have the technology to drill in deep waters — between 500 and 2,000 metres, where the majority of these gas hydrates are found," Dr Clennell said. "However, that is very expensive. We also have the technology to drill wells that go straight down and then horizontally, so we can follow these gas pockets along."

The research is only just beginning. "The history of hydrates is a history of false dawns," Dr Clennell warned. "The massive amount of hydrate present has to be set against the impossibility — at present — of doing anything with it."

Alarm grows at BSE link to sheep

James Melkie

THE Government and European Union were last night trying to shore up consumer confidence in lamb as scientists in Britain and abroad prepared further investigations into possible links between BSE and sheep.

A senior government adviser, Jeffrey Almond, urged the Government to start testing sheep as a "matter of urgency", adding: "I think there is a distinct possibility that BSE is out there in the sheep population."

Prof Almond said it would be a "national emergency" if that were so. The chief medical officer, Sir Kenneth Calman, and officials for the European Commission in Brussels last night said there was no new evidence of a health risk, but they promised to review all available information.

The Scientific Steering Committee of the EU is to meet later this month to discuss again whether high-risk parts of sheep should be banned from the food chain — but Britain has already unilaterally introduced controls.

The National Farmers' Union president Ben Gill yesterday shrugged off a suggestion by the Consumers' Association that parents might not want to introduce their young children to lamb while doubts remain. He said: "Not a single case of BSE in sheep has been identified in commercial flocks. Scare-mongering helps no one. It is in all of our interests that we listen to the facts."

The heads and spleens of all sheep and goats and spinal cord of all animals over a year old have had to be removed in Britain since last January, but most sheep meat eaten here is of animals under a

year old. Similar EU-wide proposals by the Commission in 1996 were not adopted elsewhere and it is these that are likely to be revisited by the scientific committee, since Franz Fischler, the Agriculture Commissioner, will be resubmitting the proposals. There was no indication last night that Britain would face tougher rules without more evidence of risk.

"There is no evidence of a health risk from BSE in sheep," said a commission spokesman. "However we cannot exclude it. It is better to be safe than sorry."

The Government's Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee has advised more research into the possible link but said no further action is needed at present. Prof Almond, chairman of SEAC's sheep sub-committee, said on BBC Radio 4 that politicians "would have to live with the possibility that, if they went down the road of stopping the consumption of sheep meat, 40 million animals would be destroyed, a whole industry collapsing, and the consequent cost to the nation of that. To do nothing would be inappropriate, while to ban lamb would be ridiculous."

Prof Almond said only nine sheep have so far been tested for BSE. "Those tests take about two years to run each, and each costs £30,000 so, yes, we have to do more. But the priority in the early 1990s was not to focus on the sheep issue. It was to find out more about the cattle, and whether that was going to pose a risk to humans."

Sir Kenneth said SEAC had advised there were "no grounds at this stage for thinking the likelihood of BSE in sheep is any greater now than in the past. We shall review all new evidence and take all precautions necessary to protect [public health]."

'Big Mac' hits baseball record

Martin Kettle in Washington

IN ONE of those classic moments in American sport that becomes imperishable legend throughout the United States — while remaining all but incomprehensible to the rest of the world — Mark McGwire of the St Louis Cardinals last night hit a record 61st home run of the 1998 season.

He missed the first ball from Cubs' pitcher Mike Morgan, left the second alone, and then blasted the third high and hard into left field, stands to equal the record.

McGwire completed his home run at a trot, to the ecstatic applause of opponents and teammates alike, completing the historic circuit with a little jump on to the plate before acknowledging cheering that lasted for several minutes.

As is custom, the record-breaking ball was grabbed by one of the fans clustered in "Big Mac Land" in left field, where McGwire's bullets normally end up, and for which were changing hands yesterday at up to \$400 (£240). Its possession is worth up to \$100,000 to memorabilia collectors.

The fan who emerges with the 62nd-home run ball can expect two times as much.

'I love football and am a great supporter of those who broadcast it'

continued from page 1 the all-party parliamentary group, which represents 120 MPs, said: "Murdoch does not give a damn about football." He said it was all about "rigging the market" in television.

Graham Kelly, chief executive of the Football Association said: "There is a responsibility of those concerned

with such deals to explain them to the wider football audience."

The Manchester Central MP, Tony Lloyd, also a Foreign Office minister, said: "There are concerns that Mr Murdoch and his broadcasting empire already control a big part of live football. Manchester United as a premier team may get a degree of

control which is unhealthy for the ordinary supporter."

Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, said: "I think the ramifications for the playing side will become clearer in the next few days." Manchester United shares remained at an all-time high of 189p at the end of yesterday, having risen by 48.5p yesterday. But that remains

well below the expected value of BSkyB's offer of 250p per share, and City experts were arguing yesterday that the club's shareholders would need an even higher price to persuade them to sell.

Initial City reaction sent soccer club share prices soaring, but many gains were wiped out as investors took fright at the furore.

News of the takeover also led to claims that other media companies planned to bid for Manchester United. Names in the frame for a potential bid include Carlton Communications, Granada and ENIC — a City firm which already owns Vicenza, Slavia Prague, AEK Athens and a 25 per cent stake in Glasgow Rangers.

thick@2short.planks

you don't have to be a genius to use the net . anyone can do it and we mean anyone . especially now that demon has made it all so simple . perhaps this explains why we're the uk's number one internet service provider . so for your free 30-day trial cd and brochure , call 0800 458 9666 or scribble your name and address anywhere on this ad , tear it out and send it to us at freepost demon (yes , that's all you have to write) . it's like falling off a log , only easier .

 **Demon Internet**
more people get on with us

0800 458 9666

www.demon.net email : soles@demon.net

Hague takes a leaf out of Blair handbook in attempt to silence critics of euro strategy

Nicholas Watt on Tory leader's gamble in trying to impose his version of Clause Four on a sceptical party

ONE of William Hague's most fervent backbench supporters shifted nervously at the back of the conference room at Conservative Central Office as the Tory leader announced his gamble to heal the party's long-running wounds over Europe.

"The battle is not without risk and William must win well over 60 per cent," the young MP said. "But this is William's Clause Four and with a strong vote he will strengthen his command."

His supportive remarks underlined the unspoken strategy behind Mr Hague's decision to reach over the heads of his divided parliamentary party to win support from the 300,000 members for the shadow cabinet's stance on the European single currency.

This was a thoroughly Blairite move — reminiscent of the Labour Party vote endorsing last year's election manifesto — designed to silence internal critics of Mr Hague's decision to rule out membership of the euro for this Parliament and the next.

Mr Hague's style and language were lifted from the New Labour handbook of how to deal with an obstreperous parliamentary party. Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke, the leadership's most formidable opponents on Europe, were informed of the move in brief telephone calls a mere 45 minutes before Mr Hague's announcement and the Party Board, which will run the ballot, was simply given its instructions.

In language which could have come from the lips of the Prime Minister, Mr Hague made clear his determination to stamp his authority over the party. "I do not intend to

do this by making a plea for unity. I believe that unity comes through leading, not pleading. I believe it comes through consistency, through clarity, through certainty."

His strategy, worked out over the summer holidays, was designed to consign memories of divisions over Europe to the past and to swing the bulk of the parliamentary party behind him. It was no mistake that Mr Hague chose the same room for his announcement where a hapless John Major made his infamous "don't let me hands" plea during the election cam-

"I vowed that never again would we allow the electorate to see us divided and out of touch. I vowed the party would change"

paign and where the party commemorated on the night of May 1, 1997, after the election, the Tories' victory, partly because of their divisions over Europe.

"I spent the night in this building, watching as our party went down to one of its greatest defeats," Mr Hague announced. "I vowed to myself that we would never let such a defeat happen again. I vowed that never again would we allow the electorate to see us divided and out of touch. I vowed that the Conservative Party would change."

For all his confidence —

speaking in front of a large computer screen which declared Deciding to Win — Mr Hague is woefully mistaken if he believes that Tory pro-Europeans will be silenced in the way that Old Labourites reluctantly accepted the votes on Clause Four vote and the election manifesto.

Mr Hague simply does not command his party in the way that Tony Blair rules unchallenged, and he will only begin to stamp his authority and curtail speculation about how long he can last when he starts to make an impact in opinion polls.

Until then, heavyweight pro-Europeans will not think twice about speaking their minds, as Ken Clarke did within minutes of Mr Hague's announcement yesterday and as his supporters will do throughout next month's Tory party conference.

The former chancellor loftily dismissed the announcement, saying: "I do not believe that this ballot will alter the substance of the policy issue very much. I would expect any leader of the Conservative Party to obtain a good majority in an appeal which will be treated as a request for personal backing for the leader from the membership."

Mr Clarke highlighted the dangers in adopting an immovable position, particularly when the Government has such a flexible stance. "In opposition, we have no control over events and we do not know how many years it may be before the Government call a full referendum. We should not join now but, if the single currency succeeds, we should stand prepared to join it as and when it is in our interest to do so."

Mr Hague's gamble once again laid bare the deep divisions within the party over Europe. In their heart of hearts Tories know that it will take Mr Blair's premiership, rather than any internal ballots, to resolve the issue. Britain is likely to join the euro after the next election — if a series of economic criteria are met and the decision has been endorsed in a referendum — which will mean that the irreversible step will have been taken by the time the Tories will be in any shape to win an election.



William Hague aboard Eurostar. He is trying to refine his party's policy on Europe.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARTIN ARQUES

For

KENNETH CLARKE: Old-fashioned Heathite centrist who believes Britain's economic and political future lies in Europe. Friends insist he will not be too old — he is 58 — to return to the front bench after the next election if Hague fails.

MICHAEL HESELTINE: Europe is the defining issue of the former deputy prime minister's career. Although he has retired from front-line politics he is determined to challenge the leadership over Europe.

DAVID CURRY: Resigned from shadow cabinet last year over the single currency, saying the Euro-sceptic policy threatened to leave the Tories marooned by events.

QUENTIN DAVIES: Forthright shadow social security minister is the most vocal pro-European on the Tory front bench.

Against

FRANCIS MAUDE: Smooth-talking shadow chancellor. "Our economy is cyclically and structurally different from the Continent. This is not about any peculiar narrowness or insularity, but about real economic factors."

MICHAEL HOWARD: Shadow foreign secretary. Condemned Amsterdam Treaty as "an unacceptable step towards an integrated federal superstate."

DAVID HEATHCOAT-AMORY: Diffident shadow chief secretary to the Treasury who wants "new and different relationship with the EU, one of free trade and political co-operation between sovereign states."

TERESA GORMAN: Any calculations Mr Hague makes must take into account the outspoken MP for Billericay and fellow hard-line Eurosceptics on the back benches.

Blair unmoved by TUC on jobs

Michael White and Seumas Milne

TONY Blair last night rejected TUC appeals for action to protect manufacturing jobs.

In 90-hour-long sessions with a TUC delegation, the Prime Minister told union leaders that the Government had the right mix of economic policies to avoid a recession, provided "nobody panics" and destroys confidence.

He brushed aside calls for an interest rate cut ahead of

next week's annual Trades Union Congress in Blackpool to prevent what one union leader called the looming threat to 250,000 manufacturing jobs.

Though the meeting was "useful, constructive and courteous", according to the TUC general secretary, John Monks, tensions have been raised by job losses, culminating last week in Fujitsu deciding to close its 500-strong microchip plant in Mr Blair's Sedgefield constituency.

Both sides are jittery about talking up recession, but the

TUC believes the Government's austere policies are making one more likely.

Mr Monks and the leaders of the biggest unions, including Bill Morris of the T&GWWU transport union, John Edmonds of the GMB general union and Ken Clarke, staff of the Union public sector union, overestimated emerged from Number 10 to admit that Mr Blair — who met them alone with his officials — had given no ground.

With some leaders urging a revival of a bipartisan "task force" approach to jobs and

productivity — a philosophy rejected during the Tory years — Mr Monks explained: "We made a presentation to the Prime Minister about how a partnership approach could improve competitiveness, stressing the positive role that unions can play."

Ken Jackson, leader of the AUEE engineering and electrical union, told Mr Blair that the Bank of England's monetary policy committee should cut interest rates before the TUC meets if ministers were not to get a rough "give-and-take" relationship" Mr Monks wants.

remitted for the committee, covering employment and growth as well as inflation.

Mr Blair began the meeting by delivering a "politely-worded dressing-down" — in the words of one of those present — over weekend union press briefings that they planned to raise the dangers of job losses and recession.

TUC sources expressed concern last night that they could now be "difficult exchanges" with ministers next week, rather than the "give-and-take" relationship Mr Monks wants.

Man fined for careless driving after killing jogger

Sarah Hall

A YOUNG driver who killed a level student as she jogged along a country road was fined £250 yesterday.

Samantha Rackstraw, aged 17, from Griston, Norfolk, died of head injuries after being struck by the wing mirror of a van driven by Paul Matless, 21.

The tragedy happened as he pulled out to overtake two vehicles — one of which then "messed around", refusing to let him pass.

Samantha, who was hit from behind, was listening to her personal stereo and so was unaware of the danger. Norfolk crown court was told.

Yesterday Matless, a removal van driver from Watlington, Norfolk admitted driving without due care and attention on the B1077 road in Caston on September 22 last year.

He was originally charged with causing death by dangerous driving, but the more serious charge was dropped due to conflicting accounts of what happened and two con-

flicting reports by police traffic investigators.

The decision to substitute the lesser charge had been taken "at the highest level".

Stephen Speece, prosecuting, said Matless claimed a Ford Orion car he was overtaking had cut in front of him, causing him to swerve.

Michael Clare, defending, added that the Orion driver was "deliberately messing around on the road and was 90 per cent to blame for what had happened".

Matless — who was 20 at the time of the accident — had seen the teenage jogger when he decided to overtake. "He had a good view and wanted to pass the Orion driver. When he did overtake, the Orion driver increased his speed, keeping him on the wrong side of the road, and the wing mirror of his van collided with the jogger," Mr Clare said.

"This was a simple misjudgment which was exacerbated by the Orion driver's manoeuvre."

At an earlier hearing the Orion driver, Philip Richards, aged 49, of Carbrooke,

Norfolk, admitted driving without insurance and was fined £140.

Yesterday, Judge Paul Downes said the prosecution had taken an "entirely proper course" in proceeding with the lesser charge.

A Labour MP who was breathalysed the day after he had been drinking was yesterday banned from driving for 18 months and fined £1,000 for being almost twice over the legal limit.

A breath test revealed Jamie Cann, aged 32, who represents Ipswich, had 64 micrograms of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath when he was stopped in Martlesham, near Ipswich, Suffolk, 10 days ago. The legal limit is 35 micrograms.

Magistrates at Felixstowe, Suffolk, heard Mr Cann was stopped at 1pm on August 29 as he drove with his wife, Rosemary. Officers smelt alcohol on his breath.

After the hearing, at which he admitted his offence and was ordered to pay £40 costs, Mr Cann said he had been drinking at home the night before because he had difficulties sleeping.

Cliff on God's tail and pitched above the Pope in Christian fame chart

Sarah Hall

HE IS famed for having more top 10 hits than any other pop star, for not having sex in 38 years, and for being the top female choice for a perfect lover. But yesterday the true extent of Sir Cliff Richard's renown became clear: the Peter Pan of pop is a more famous Christian than the Pope, a survey has found.

Not only that, but the

original Bachelor Boy, who became a born-again Christian in 1966, comes close to surpassing number one — God — for fame.

Mother Teresa comes in at third, followed at joint fourth by Billy Graham and Martin Luther King, then John the Baptist, St Peter and John Wesley. The Pope crawls in at ninth position, one place above former hostage Terry Waite — and five above Tony Blair.

The ranking was made by

253 people of all ages in Downham Market, Norfolk, who were asked by a local Pentecostal church, the Downham Market Christian Fellowship, if they could name a famous Christian. About 9 per cent said Jesus, 8 per cent Sir Cliff, and 2 per cent the Pope.

Mother Teresa was chosen by 5 per cent and 0.8 per cent picked Mr Blair. The Rev Alan Mollineaux, the minister who did the survey, said: "I am not sur-

prised at the number who said Cliff Richard. We may live in a spiritual society but it's a non-religious."

The 57-year-old singer may have overtaken Pope John Paul II for being more approachable and less a figurehead, the Mr Mollineaux suggested.

The 38-year-old minister, who admitted he was a Cliff fan, denied he was down-cast at the challenge to Jesus. Christ might have garnered more support had

as the founder of Christianity, he was not technically a Christian. "I wouldn't have said Jesus," he said. "A lot of people didn't put him first because they were aware of that."

The Roman Catholic Church also refused to be cowed by the survey. Tom Horwood, a spokesman for the faith, attributed Sir Cliff beating the Pope to the singer's higher profile in East Anglia following his recent visit to Norfolk.

New era of supernurses

Lucy Ward Political Correspondent

TONY Blair will today promise extra pay for a new generation of "supernurses" to reward experienced staff who stay in patient care.

Speaking at the Nurse of the Year awards in London, the Prime Minister will unveil details of an alternative career path for nurses under which top-performing staff would not have to leave the ward or clinic for management roles to break through the pay ceiling.

The commitment to introduce higher salaries comes four days before the deadline for written submissions for the next nurses' pay award. Nursing organisations, furious at a series of staged pay settlements, are promising a fierce autumn campaign for a full award next time round.

Last month the Health Secretary, Frank Dobson, made clear he wanted to abandon staged increases.

Newly qualified nurses earn £12,600 — less than new entrants to teaching or the police — while experienced staff earn between £14,500 and £26,500.

Unions believe recognition of expert nurses is long overdue, though Mr Blair will stop back from indicating how much more money supernurses could expect.

The plans could see top performing staff receiving rises of up to 5 per cent next spring, rather than the 2 or 3 per cent expected to remain the norm in public sector pay deals.

Ministers hope the concept — a parallel to the super-teacher posts being introduced to reward skilled teachers who want to stay in the classroom — will help address the problem of nurses leaving the profession.

Mr Blair will set out more details of proposals to recruit 15,000 extra nurses and establish 6,000 training places over the next three years.

He will say plans for supernurses — or nurse consultants — are designed to raise

the status of staff who opt not to scale the management ladder.

The nurse consultants would have the same status within nursing as that of medical consultants within their profession.

Mr Blair will tell them: "Some nurses at a certain point in their career are happy to move into management but many others want to progress but still retain day to day contact with patients — the reason they came into nursing in the first place."

Unions support the supernurses plan, which would see them running their own clinics in areas such as cardiac rehabilitation, breast cancer or diabetes treatment.

Christine Hancock, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, said last night: "We know there are many expert nurses running their own clinics and seeing that patients are treated better and quicker. The Prime Minister's recognition that they are effectively working like a consultant is long overdue."

Lady in Lake killer is urged to confess

Body of mother found by divers 20 years after she disappeared 'had face shattered by attacker'

David Ward

A CORONER yesterday appealed for the killer of the victim known as the Lady in the Lake to admit his guilt after more than 20 years.

Ian Smith, coroner for Furness in Cumbria, made his plea at the end of an inquest into the death of Carol Ann Park, aged 30, whose trussed up and weighted-down body, dressed in a baby doll night-dress, was found by divers in Conistow Water in the Lake District a year ago.

She had disappeared from her home in July 1976. A pathologist yesterday suggested she died as a result of blows with an axe or meat chopper that had shattered her face.

After recording a verdict that Mrs Park, a mother of

three, had been unlawfully killed on July 17, 1976, at an unknown place, Mr Smith said: "As regards who did it, I hope they have a conscience and that their conscience is troubling them."

"She was the victim of a nasty, vicious attack, centred on the face. She put her hands up to defend herself, and the fractures seen in her little finger and her wrist are the result of the attack."

Mrs Park's husband, Gordon, who was accused of her murder before charges were dropped by the Crown Prosecution Service in January, was at the inquest in Barrow-in-Furness to hear Mr Smith say: "No one has been on trial here, and if it has looked as if someone was on trial here, I apologise."

In a statement after the hearing, Mr Park, who has since remarried, said: "I am pleased that this ordeal has now come to an end. The past 22 months have been a great strain, particularly for my children, who have had to come to terms not only with the now certainty that their mother is dead but also with the pressures on me."

Mrs Park, a teacher aged 54, gave evidence at the inquest for 35 minutes, refusing to answer some questions on the advice of his solicitor.

He told of separations from Mrs Park and of how he won custody of the children. "I loved my wife... We had a wonderful family and I believed we could make it right."

He described how they had planned a day in Blackpool on July 17 as a treat for the children. Vanessa, then aged eight, Jeremy, six, and Rachel, five, even though he hated the resort. At the last moment, his wife decided not to go, and he left her in bed "alive and well".

When he returned home with the children, the house



Carol Park... her bound and weighted body was found in lake

was locked. Mrs Park, who the inquest heard had had two affairs and once set up home with a lover in Middlesbrough, was not there. Her engagement and wedding rings were on the dressing table, said Mr Park.

"I was disappointed but this was not something new

to me. Here we go again." Asked to explain, he added: "I thought she had left again."

He reported her missing to his solicitor six weeks later at the end of the school holiday, when he thought she would have returned to start her new term as a teacher. The solicitor contacted the police.

Earlier, Home Office pathologist Edmund Tapp said Mrs Park's body had been weighted down with 12lb of lead piping, folded. It was wrapped in a bag fashioned from a plastic dress, rucksack and black bin liners. The head and feet had become detached. The body was bound with ropes "in a complex kind of way," said Dr Tapp.

The inquest was told that a pathologist found that nine kinds of knot had been used on the ropes and concluded that whoever tied up the body was probably interested in sailing or climbing.

Peter Sharpe, solicitor for Mr Park's children, said they offered their father "their total and unqualified support".

News in brief

Burmese junta detains opposition

BURMA'S main opposition party, the National League for Democracy, said yesterday that the military government had detained 110 of its members in the past two days to thwart its plan to convene a "People's Parliament" this month.

The party said those detained included 50 who won seats in the last general election eight years ago — a poll the party won by a landslide only to see the military ignore the result.

A government spokesman confirmed that NLD members had been detained but gave no figures. He said it was to prevent the NLD calling a parliament, something that "would not be permitted by any government in the world". — *Reuters, Rangoon.*

Chevenement improves

THE Val de Grâce military hospital in Paris said the interior minister, Jean-Pierre Chevènement, who is in a coma, was improving yesterday, a day after a cabinet colleague said he was in an alarming state.

The hospital said Mr Chevènement, who slumped into a coma last Wednesday after suffering a heart attack during a routine gall bladder operation, was no longer in shock and his vital functions were returning.

Val de Grâce has been so tightlipped about Mr Chevènement, aged 59, that the lack of information is becoming an issue itself. The government spokesman, Daniel Vaillant, said there were no plans to replace him at the moment. — *Reuters, Paris.*

Tension returns to Lesotho

TENSION appeared to be returning to the tiny southern African state of Lesotho last night amid a stalemate in international efforts to scrutinise the outcome of the country's general election.

After a man was critically wounded on Sunday when he was shot by a policeman during a demonstration in the capital, Maseru, opposition leaders called for a work stoppage yesterday to be extended until the end of the week.

Two people were shot dead last week and several were wounded in violence linked to a sit-in outside the palace of King Letsie. Protesters want the king to annul the May 23 election, in which the Lesotho Congress of Democrats (LCD) won 79 of the 80 seats.

The protests were defused briefly when a foreign team began scrutinising the ballot. But, amid rumours that they had found irregularities, a Monsotho high court judge barred them from proceeding. — *Alex Duval Smith, Johannesburg.*

Floods may worsen

Weather forecasters in Bangladesh saw little hope yesterday of respite from the floods that have swamped 70 per cent of the country.

The floods have so far claimed at least 730 lives and affected about 26 million people. The capital, Dhaka, has been virtually cut off after floods forced the suspension on Sunday of ferry services from Aricha to the country's north, and a key highway to the south has been closed for weeks. Officials said the situation could worsen before it improves.

Meanwhile swollen rivers in India rose further yesterday, posing new threats to millions of people as well as crops and wildlife, officials said. The death toll from floods and landslides has risen to 200 in the past four months. — *Reuters, Dhaka.*

Silk road to reopen

OFFICIALS from 33 countries stretching from Belgium to Japan are due to meet in the Azeri capital, Baku, today to give a boost to a \$625 million project to recreate the historic Silk Road linking Europe with Asia.

The meeting is expected to result in customs and trade agreements between the project's members, who will also select a site for their headquarters. They can choose from the capitals of Georgia, Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan.

Worries about the effects of the Asian and Russian financial crises on the world economy and trade have cast a shadow over the one-day conference. — *Reuters, Baku.*

Belgium mints the euro

KING Albert minted Belgium's first euro coins in Brussels yesterday as the country followed France and Germany on the latest stage towards a single currency.

Three billion Belgian euro coins will be produced at the Royal Mint before they hit the streets on January 1 2002. The coin features a uniform design showing a map of Europe. Each of the 11 countries already signed up to the euro is allowed to put its own symbols on the flip side. King Albert's head will therefore keep its place on Belgium's coins.

Germany, France, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Austria, Belgium, Finland, Portugal, Ireland and Luxembourg will officially adopt the euro as their common currency on January 1 1999.

For the first three years it will be used only for non-cash transactions, until euro coins and bills start filling the purses of 200 million Europeans on January 1 2002. — *AP, Brussels.*

A senior Iranian official is to visit next week, signalling warmer relations despite the Rushdie affair

Britain gets closer to Iran

Iran Black Diplomatic Editor

LONG-FROZEN relations between Britain and Iran are thawing rapidly as fellow Europeans and the United States queue up to woo a regime only recently shunned as a pariah.

Despite the unresolved Salman Rushdie affair, the Anglo-Iranian honeymoon is blossoming. A top Iranian foreign ministry official is due in London next week and a ground-breaking British ministerial visit to Tehran is possible later this year.

Alli Ahani is paying a visit after John Sheehy, the third most senior diplomat in the Foreign Office, held discreet talks in

Tehran in July. Mr Ahani is the most senior Iranian official to come to Britain in a decade.

One immediate prospect is a meeting between Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and his Iranian counterpart, Kamal Kharrazi, at the United Nations General Assembly later this month.

Britain wants to build on President Mohammed Khatami's positive attitude to the West and to encourage him in his struggle against hardline opponents. It is anxious not to be left behind in trade and investment, especially in the energy sector, by less reticent European competitors finally free of the threat of US sanctions.

Officials say that with the US now actively seeking improved ties after years of en-

emy, Tony Blair wants Britain to follow suit.

Britain would like the Iranian regime to distance itself from the Rushdie fatwa. Tehran has given verbal assurances that no one will be sent to murder the author of the Satanic Verses, but insists

are lobbying for a public meeting between the novelist and the Prime Minister to underline the Government's commitment to his safety.

Derek Fatchett, the minister responsible for the Middle East, hopes to visit Tehran, though probably not in time

cultural activities by the British Council, which has been absent from Iran since the 1979 revolution.

In recent weeks Britain has renewed short-term insurance cover for exports to Iran and promised medium-term cover by the end of the year. Mr Fatchett gave a rare interview to the official Iranian news agency.

And the FO issued a strong condemnation of terrorism after the opposition mojahedin claimed responsibility for assassinating the former head of the country's prisons administration.

"This really illustrates the extent of the concessions his Foreign Office is making to appease the mullahs," a mojahedin spokesman said.

Italy and France have both sent senior ministers to Tehran, and Germany's foreign

minister, Klaus Kinkel, said he could envisage making a visit in the near future.

Last year Germany and all other EU members recalled their ambassadors from Tehran in protest when a German court ruled that senior Iranian leaders had ordered the 1982 killings of Kurdish dissidents in Berlin.

Since then improved ties with the West have been made possible by Tehran's dislike of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, its helpful role in central Asia and the Gulf, and its less militant stance on the Arab-Israeli peace process.

President Khatami and his supporters are said to have distanced themselves from state terrorism, but caveat about the country's long-term nuclear ambitions remains.

With the US actively seeking improved ties with Iran after years of enmity, Tony Blair wants Britain to follow suit

that the edict cannot be annulled. One possibility is for the government to call for the bounty offered by a religious foundation to be dropped.

"They know what we want," a senior FO source said.

Mr Rushdie's supporters

for the city's international trade fair in October.

Given public progress on Mr Rushdie, diplomatic relations could be upgraded to ambassadorial level. Plans are under way to expand the British mission and revive



Eddie Fenech Adami (centre), Malta's new prime minister, is mobbed by exuberant Nationalist Party supporters as he arrives at the Castille Palace in Valletta yesterday to resume the office he lost two years ago. PHOTOGRAPH: DARRIN ZAMMIT/LUP

Thousands flock to greet winner of Maltese poll

John Hooper in Valletta

THOUSANDS poured into the Maltese capital Valletta yesterday for belated celebrations to mark the Nationalist Party's crushing general election victory.

The party leader, Eddie Fenech Adami, a 64-year-old lawyer, was sworn in as prime minister while his supporters indulged in an orgy of what the Maltese call "car-cading".

Squashed into cars or crammed on to lorries, they waved red, white and black Nationalist standards as horns sounded incessantly and fireworks and rockets exploded around the Grand Harbour.

Shops and businesses stayed closed for fear of the post-election violence which has marred the aftermath of some previous polls in a country where politics are followed passionately.

The final results of Saturday's snap election showed the Nationalists took 52 per cent of the vote and the Malta Labour Party (MLP), led by Alfred Sant, 47 per cent.

Though the precise allocation of seats has yet to be determined by the dauntingly complex electoral system, Mr Fenech Adami predicted that he would have a five-seat majority — huge by the standards of a country with a 65-seat legislature.

While counting was still in progress on Sunday, the new prime minister committed himself to reviving Malta's application for membership of the European Union, which was frozen by Labour.

"The first thing that I am

going to do is to inform the EU that the Maltese people want membership," said Mr Fenech Adami, who was ousted from power two years ago after a nine-year spell in office. His party has promised to put the outcome of its negotiations to a referendum.

The election was called three years early after Malta's veteran former prime minister Dom Mintoff joined the Nationalists in a vote of no confidence in Dr Sant's ministry.

The two men had been at loggerheads for weeks over a plan for the redevelopment of the Cottonera area of the Grand Harbour which Mr Mintoff claimed endangered Malta's national security.

The Nationalist majority of 13,000 votes was the same as that won by the MLP in the 1996 election, meaning that almost 10 per cent of the island's 270,000 electors switched their allegiance. The swing was evidence of profound concern at the direction taken under Dr Sant's "New Labour" leadership.

Last November he enraged many of his party's natural supporters in the poorest sections of the community by imposing huge rises in the price of water and electricity. Mr Fenech Adami promised after being sworn in that he would reduce the tariffs.

Dr Sant, a physiotherapist-turned-diplomat with an MBA from Harvard, also drew criticism for his coldly intellectual style of leadership and the rigorous discipline he imposed on his party. By the time the 82-year-old Mr Mintoff staged his rebellion, two Labour cabinet ministers had already resigned.

Abubakar begins Nigerian glasnost

Patrick Smith in Abuja

OPENING the doors of the Nigerian presidency to the international press for the first time in four years, General Abdulsalam Abubakar said yesterday he would not allow any repeat of the human rights abuses committed by his predecessor, the late Sani Abacha.

Although most of the questions were about corruption and human rights abuses, Gen Abubakar handled them head on, saying he welcomed "constructive criticism".

Gen Abubakar said the 19 activists from Ogoniland arrested after the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa, and eight others arrested in 1995, would have their cases heard in civil courts and not by the tribunal that convicted Saro-Wiwa.

But he voiced concern at the disruptions in Nigeria's oil-producing areas which have shut down almost half the country's oil production of 2 million barrels a day.

Alongside a thorough reorganisation of the state-owned Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, Gen Abubakar said, the oil-producing areas would be given financial aid to improve living standards. An independent commission will be set up to monitor and regulate the oil sector to make it "more effective and responsive to the needs of the

Nigerian economy". Under the Abacha regime, several billion dollars of oil revenues went unaccounted for.

Referring to press reports that the former national security adviser Ismaila Gwarzo had withdrawn \$1.45 billion (£900 million) from the central bank on Abacha's orders, Gen Abubakar confirmed that "routine audit and investigations of various accounts in the office of the national security adviser and other government departments" were continuing, and some money had been returned.

Foreign governments were helping Nigerian officials to recover money stolen during the Abacha regime, he said. The governments — believed to include Britain, Switzerland, Brazil and Lebanon — will have to unravel a complex web of trust funds and hidden identities, said a government source.

The general was also questioned about allegations of torture and mistreatment of prisoners by security officers. Gen Abubakar said his government was "making changes", and added that any alleged victim was free to pursue the officer responsible through the civil courts.

In addition, all repressive decrees are being reviewed by the attorney-general.

The military would have no problem "subordinating itself to civil authority" after the country's scheduled handover to an elected government next May, Gen Abubakar said.

Patrick Smith is editor of *Africa Confidential*

Congo rebels are sidelined at peace summit in Zimbabwe

Andrew Meldrum in Victoria Falls

ALL-PARTY talks on ending the Congo war began in Zimbabwe late yesterday afternoon, attended by seven African heads of state.

The summit was called by President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, who has sent aircraft and 3,000 troops to the Congo to defend the government of President Laurent Kabila from rebel forces.

The two presidents were joined in Victoria Falls by presidents Sam Nujoma of Namibia and Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola, whose troops are also supporting Mr Kabila. On the other side are the presidents of Uganda and Rwanda, who are supporting the opposition to Mr Kabila.

The rebels said they would not attend the talks because Zimbabwe is not neutral. As a compromise the talks are being chaired by the Zambian president, Frederick Chiluba, who has not taken sides.

The presidents all arrived in Victoria Falls on Sunday night and began talking yesterday morning. The rebels did not arrive until late in the afternoon.

Unlike the red-carpet treatment given the presidents, they had to go through standard customs and immigration procedures, and then had to telephone for transport to the Intercontinental Hotel, where the conference is taking place.

At the hotel, the rebel spokesman, Arthur Zahidi



Kabila, pictured at the talks yesterday, was accused of lacking respect for democracy. PHOTOGRAPH: ODD ANDERSEN

but it seems that the presidents from both sides have already discussed the issues at length and may have reached general agreement. The rebels, dependent on their foreign backers, may have to go along with the agreement whether they like it or not.

The talks are expected to achieve a ceasefire and the return of prisoners from both sides. This is especially important for Uganda and Rwanda, which reportedly had large numbers of their troops captured in western Congo.

The next issue will be the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Congo. The last but most difficult question is how to resolve the country's internal problems. The South African president, Nelson Mandela, has called for quick multi-party elections and the formation of a government of national unity to help the former Zaire achieve stability.

Mr Mandela, current chairman of the Southern African Development Community, which has tried repeatedly to negotiate a Congo settlement, was not invited to the summit.

Hutu rebels in Rwanda killed 21 civilians and wounded 19 others at Ndaro village, in Kibuye province, as they retreated after storming a prison in the west of the country last Friday, the army said yesterday.

Commander Abdul Kabera said 70 of the 800 rebels involved were killed by government soldiers. About 200 freed prisoners were still at large.

The Guardian Travel Shop

Monet's Garden Château Weekend

4 days departs 25-28 September 1998 From £279

Just across the channel in northern France are to be found some of the most beautiful gardens in all of Europe — the most notable being those at Chateau de Versailles, the Chateau de Fontainebleau and the Chateau de St Germain. It is here that Claude Monet designed a garden ablaze with flowers and colours which would become his favourite model for painting.

We will be accommodated for three nights at Chateau de Fontainebleau, a superb hotel, recently refurbished, set in 15 acres in the heart of the Chateau forest. Here you will enjoy comfortable surroundings along with fine food with wine included.

Our four day tour will visit Paris and the gallery Musée National de l'Orangerie which houses many original works by Monet. We will also visit two spectacular private gardens in the Dieppe area — Clos du Coudey with its adjoining nursery and the marvellous informal gardens at Le Bois des Minimes.

Included in the price is 3 nights dinner with wine, bed and breakfast at the refurbished Chateau de Fontainebleau • return cross channel ferries • executive coach travel from London • entry to Musée de l'Orangerie and a guided tour of Paris • admission to all gardens. Prices are per person sharing a twin room, single supplement £50 per person, insurance £15.50, overnight Gatwick Hotel before and after tour if required £40 per person (255 single). Holiday is organised by Brightwater Holidays Ltd, Eden Park House, Cupar, Fife, KY15 4HS and is offered subject to availability. ATOL 4398 ABTOT 5001.

For more details please complete the coupon below or call Brightwater Holidays brochure hotline.

0870 73 73 701

Calls charged at National Rate (some cable company rates may vary) HELPLINE

To: Brightwater Holidays Ltd, Eden Park House, Cupar, Fife, KY15 4HS

Please send me full details of:

☐ Monet's Garden

How many times a week do you buy the Guardian?

How many times a month do you buy the Guardian?

Please tick this box if you do NOT wish to receive details of other offers from The Guardian or other organisations approved by The Guardian

Name _____ Address _____ Postcode _____

The Guardian

سكنا من السفر

Speaking of him and his wife, Saumura, one Western analyst said: "They see themselves as historical figures in a struggle for the future of Cambodia." — New York Times.

Comment

Diary

Matthew Norman

AND so to new Book of the Month, All For Love, the 1988 classic by Express editor Rizia Rosie Boycott, bought by a reader for 30p after it was cruelly withdrawn from the local library. Set in 1930, Rosie's blockbuster concerns debutante Violet Harcourt, and presciently involves a newspaper magnate — a class of person with whom she has had many dealings in recent years. "Violet's passion is for the silver screen," the inside cover informs us, "until she becomes infatuated with James Franklin, heir to Australia's largest newspaper dynasty." But we get ahead of ourselves. Let us begin at the beginning, where we find a hint of pseudo-Archerian dynastic feuding as Violet meets James Franklin at Highgate Cemetery as his grand-father — once her own father's business partner — is being buried. "After a few moments," writes Rosie, "the Australian found he had stopped mentally undressing the girl and was looking only at her face." Early progress, then, and more tomorrow, when Violet and James meet again aboard the Duke of Westminster's party.

HALLELUJAH, Diary vicar Steve Chalke is safe. When Rev Steve last week failed to return a call, fears grew for the man who, in his own term, "most coherently defines the zeitgeist." However, the Baptist minister's office manages to assuage all fears. The Rev is in India, visiting projects for sick children and AIDS cases connected with his own Oasis Trust, and will call on his return. Praise be.

SAY what you will about Helen Britton, she doesn't make it easy. With the Save our Brinton campaign, designed to prevent the droid MP from being dropped in Peterborough, in its infancy, she features in a Sunday headline: "Police called to 3am rumpus at Sex MP's flat". Oh God. "Officers," the People relates, "said there had been reports of shouting, screaming and slammed doors." Thankfully, after interviewing her, they decided to take no action. However, environmental health officers are apparently "continuing their investigations". Helen, we can help you and we will help you — but you have to meet us halfway.

AS a valiant advocate for road safety, Helen will be distressed by news of Mandy Mandelson, the lithe and lissom Trade Secretary. At 7.30 pm on Sunday, Mandy was spotted pedalling his bike along Westbourne Park Grove, west London, with his sweater tendingly knotted around his waist — but without any lights! When we're in the Catnet, Mandy, we must set an example.

IT is murder that concerns Boris the Jackal Johnson as he interviews the crime novelist Rachel Billington. "I ought to declare," writes the Telegraph enforcer, "that I am Rachel Billington's admiring godson... Any suggestion of nepotism I confidently brush aside, and anyone who makes it can expect a slap in the mart." Mm. "The Big Guy ain't here," says a voice not unlike Joe Foweraker when we call. Ah, well, we were just wondering if the Jackal was planning to interview any other of his intimate circle in the weeks ahead... his children, perhaps, or his old nanny, or even another of his godmothers, wise guy. If it was you, it'd be god-fathers I'd be worryin' about, 'cos you ain't showin' much respect... and the Big Guy, he likes respect. Capish? Now run along, and go play with the traffic."

THERE is concern at the Telegraph that commercial sponsorship has infiltrated the paper's thought for the day. "Wash away all my iniquity," read the biblical quote one day last week, "and cleanse me from my skin." Has the Body Shop brought out its own version of Psalm 51? Or is it one of those types from which the Guardian, alone of newspapers, never suffers?



Murdoch's victim is not football. What is lost is honest news

Hugo Young



IT IS typical of the British enthrallment to Rupert Murdoch that the first squeak of protest any minister dares to make against him concerns the future of a football team. Buying Man U will be the least of Murdoch's threats to British life.

The two entities, given where they've come from and where they're going to, are a perfect fit. Straining at this point, Tony Banks and his fellow sentimentalists about the national game seem oblivious of the poisoned camel the country has already been obliged to swallow through Murdoch's other activities ever since he came here.

Soccer sold out six years ago to the trend Murdoch personalities. The merger between them is merely the logical climax of the rapacious commercialism on which the future of both is staked. Of Murdoch, you might expect this more than of Man U. Every particle of his activity as a capitalist is devoted to greed's satisfaction. There's more to soccer than greed, but in 1992, when the Premier League left the broadcasters and sold itself to narrow-casting Sky, top football declared its priorities. After pricing a lot of fans off the terraces, it would now price them out of their own armchairs. In the interest of the owners and not of what was laughably known as the game.

Man U, unless Murdoch was careful, might weaken Sky by launching its own television channel. Other big clubs might go the same American way. They rather than he, might also shape the future of European club football. How very much simpler for them all to be in it together, and how empty sound the complaints that the fans will really care.

Murdoch may have been extremely bad for most of the sports he's touched. Rugby and cricket are just two examples which show that massive television money is a snare and delusion, assisting at the ruinous alteration of games that television now controls as a rabid sports buff. I watch golf as a rare professional sport that hasn't been devoured. But big soccer in general, and Man U in particular, already the creature of Mammon, will surely be immune. The fans will bleat, and Sports Minister Banks says something must be done. But in the end what counts for the fans is not the owner but the victor. As an executive of the Fox Sports Net, Murdoch's baseball arm, once put it, the people don't care about the network, "but they're out-of-their-minds loyal to their teams".

All this, however obnoxious to many people, is so inevitable — and, in the end, so congruent with modernity — that objections to it are likely to be a waste of hot air: gratifying, but ultimately vain. It is just as plausible that the Office of Fair Trading, if wheeled into the arena, will challenge the Premiership's attempt to stop a Euro-league, as that it will push the Trade Secretary to stop a merger for which the ground has been well prepared. But that isn't the end of the story. This new feeding of Murdoch's insatiable greed should have another effect.

Though leaving the Government without obvious means to stop it, it sharpens the question to ministers about how they propose to address Murdoch in other, more crucial, fields. How do they really see him: as a friend to cherish, or an enemy of the public interest? As an irritant, or ally to be feared and hum-

moured, or a mogul of such monstrous reach that austere detachment is the only relationship a democratic leader can afford to offer him? The Government is not without choices to make or levers to pull.

Some of these require international networking that surpasses his own, something governments should be good at. According to the Washington Post, News Corp last year paid only \$103 million in taxes worldwide, on an operating profit of \$1.32 billion. It manipulated for itself, in other words, a tax rate of 7.8 per cent, about one-third of what other big US media groups paid. This is a grotesque perversion, which Britain, along with others, has devoted nothing like the necessary political energy to attacking.

TONY Blair should ask whether his availability to Murdoch isn't becoming an embarrassment. Even if there turns out to be no valid OFT case against the Man U sale, the social and professional entwinements between the Labour high command and the Murdoch minions will compromise the credibility of such a decision. Mr Blair may judge himself to be miles above improper influence, but when regulation is the issue, Murdoch's very presence looms over politicians he thinks he can make or break, contaminate even the most defensible outcome. His power draws politicians to him, but is precisely what they should demand of them the self-denying ordinance that ministers refuse to swear.

Their propensity to bow down before him, to make calls on his behalf, to settle their European agenda through fear of his, reveals

the hold he has. In this sense, he has already been deeply corrupting of the process. The only power in a position to stand up to him shows a regrettable reluctance to offend him in the smallest detail. There's a bigger man than democratic politicians tramping through the land, and if the Man U case is a populist wake-up call to that effect, it will serve a purpose. By extending yet further his ownership of what the British hold dear, it reminds them that the only ministers worth supporting are those who, if they cannot stop him, vow to entertain him with the longest spoon, treating his power not as a lure but a repellent.

Others, too, should be woken up. Manchester United, if he gets the club, will take its place on the lengthening list of subjects where his papers have taken their own self-denying ordinance against the truth. The exclusion zone is already formidable. Two large semi-continent, China and western Europe, are already off-limits to free journalism in the Murdoch press. Industries, from arms to airlines, need special care. Murdoch needs about all Fox films and a plethora of television stations has to be read with due awareness of the commercial interest behind the words. Welcome, soon, Man U, which, with all its competitive radiations and cross-conflicted television, may stand for football itself. It's not that editors won't sometimes print the truth, just that Murdoch makes it impossible for the reader to rely on that being the object of the exercise. Often it won't be, as the conglomerate hand feels the writer's collar. Galvanised by Man U, it's not football we should be lamenting.

The end of money

John Gray



BILL Clinton and Tony Blair are insisting that Russia and Asia press on with market reform. They have not understood that economic meltdown in these countries is chiefly a result of anarchy in global markets. Their incomprehension bodes ill for the world, and for their own political futures.

Russia is undergoing its second economic collapse in less than a decade. Since Yeltsin's market reforms began in 1991, production has halved. At least a half of what remains occurs in a barter economy. Tens of millions of people scarcely use money at all. Much of the population, including that in cities, survives only by growing its own food. After years of "economic modernisation", driven on by relentless pressure from the West, Russia has been reduced to a largely pre-modern, subsistence economy.

Russian agriculture and manufacturing cannot be rescued from collapse without protection from world markets and curbs on the mobility of capital. By vetoing such measures, the West has made a second change of regime in Russia more likely, and ensured that any government that emerges from the current shadow-play in the Kremlin will be one in which anti-western parties occupy a pivotal position.

By comparison with deepening deflation in Japan, Russia's collapse is — economically speaking — insignificant. Yet Western policies towards Japan have been bungling and hubristic. Japan has been told it must fight deflation by adopting Keynesian policies. But cutting taxes and increasing public spending will not kick-start the Japanese economy. It will merely increase savings and the flow of money abroad.

WESTERN governments have not noticed that, when interest rates are near rock bottom, confidence has evaporated and capital is free to move anywhere in the world, such policies have as much effect — as Keynes himself put it — as pushing on a piece of string. Under Western pressure, Japan has given up many of the controls it had on the economy. It may now have no alternative to engineering an inflation.

On the surface, China's economy looks in healthier shape than Japan's. Protected by its consistent, well-founded contempt for western advice, the Chinese government has retained control of the commanding heights. By spurning the West's demands for eco-

nomic liberalisation it has been able to insulate the country from the worst effects of the depression that has struck its neighbours. Despite that, deflation is gaining hold. China's government will do anything it can to stave off spiralling unemployment and prevent the country following Indonesia and Russia into political chaos. Sooner or later, it will be forced to devalue the currency. At that point, if not before, the yen is likely also to go into free-fall.

All the conditions are already in place for a Thucydides-style competitive devaluation in east Asia and, as a consequence, for a revival of American protectionism. There can be little doubt how Congress will respond to the prospect of a flood of cheap Asian imports. In turn, trade war between the United States and China could turn Wall Street's gyrations into a collapse. Yet a Congressional tilt to protectionism is only one of a number of developments that could have that effect.

Financial crisis in Brazil or Argentina; devaluation in China; more bank failures in Japan and the repatriation of some Japanese financial assets, further tremors in the Kremlin; a sudden resignation by President Clinton. As public and political support are rapidly whittled away by mounting anxiety about the economy, one or more of these possibilities, along with others that cannot be foreseen, could trigger panic among the 100 million US private investors who have placed an unprecedented portion of their wealth in the stock market. It is becoming fashionable to talk of a re-run of the Great Crash of 1929-32, when the American market fell by 90 per cent and a global depression ensued. In fact, the scale and depth of the American people's exposure to the stock market is greater now than at

Falling house prices would savage the voters' wealth

that time — or any other. As a result, a fall in the market considerably smaller than that which occurred between 1929-32 could have a larger economic impact. A sustained slide on Wall Street will not be a market correction but a signal for a major dislocation of the world economy. In that event, the American public will recoil from the free-market policies the US has attempted to impose throughout the world, and America's short-lived experiment in imperial *laissez-faire* will come to an abrupt close.

A worldwide slump would be a test to destruction for Labour. Shrinking pensions and falling house prices would savage the wealth of its most vital constituency — the voters who supported it for the first time in May 1997.

False Dawn: The Delusions of Global Capitalism by John Gray, is published by Granta.

Unreported in the small hours, the genuine experts in the Lords turned up their noses at Blair's Terror Bill last week — but then nodded it through

Democracy at work

Andrew Roth

THERE were twelve hours of virtually unreported overnight debate in the Lords last week on the "emergency" Terror Bill, now law. What was said by those peers was remarkable.

Lord (Patrick) Mayhew, Attorney General before becoming John Major's Northern Ireland Secretary 1992-97, insisted: "We are invited to make law which may turn out to be dangerous and therefore bad law, and for a purpose which will not be achieved in practice... People ought not to be convicted on hearsay evidence backed by straws in the wind."

"A judge could prefer the evidence of a senior police officer simply because he was a senior police officer. That would be human, but not exactly judicial." He

preferred to reinstate the power to intern.

Lord Bridge of Harwich, the judge who put away the Birmingham Six for 18 years, until the convictions were overturned, said: "Perhaps that makes me unduly sensitive about the possibility of miscarriages of justice... I retain a sense of unease about the provision in the Bill that would make the opinion of a senior police officer, that a man charged with membership of a prescribed organisation, is such a member admissible in evidence."

The Law Lord who overturned the Birmingham Six convictions, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Chairman of the Security Commission, who produced a report in 1986 on anti-terrorist measures at the request of the then Home Secretary, Michael Howard, said: "I just do not see how it could work. A

police officer's opinion is worth only what his sources will support. If he simply says, 'That is my opinion', it is worth nothing in a court of law."

"No judge in Northern Ireland — no judge anywhere in the world — will be convinced beyond reasonable doubt on the say-so of a policeman... that is why I say that there will not be any convictions as a result." This ridicule was strongly supported by Liberal Democrat peers: Home, Russell, Wallace, Thomas of Grested and Lord Avebury, voice of Amnesty International, who predicted the legislation would be overturned in the European Court.

Lord (Peter) Archer of Sandwell, Labour's own former Solicitor General 1974-79 and Chairman of the British Section of Amnesty 1971-74, derided the legislation as a "charade".

New peer Baroness (Helen) Kennedy, who appeared in many of the leading Irish cases during her 18 years at the Bar, warned: "To change the rules [of evidence] because we are dealing with people we abhor is to corrode the system for us all."

ALTHOUGH referred to delicately as "a present to offer to President Clinton when he arrives in Belfast" (Lord Hylton), there was widespread fury at the piggy-backing of clauses aimed at international terrorists, transfrontiers and drug-runners onto the Bill.

Ministers half-admitted they were trying to appease Washington by saying ten times as many people had been killed in the Nairobi bombing of the US embassy as in Omagh.

The clauses were difficult to defend because they



were hastily and clumsily adapted from Tory MP Nigel Waterson's 1996 Private Member's Bill against international terrorists. That had the backing of both frontbenches but fell because the Tory Whips could not round up a quorum. In response to the anti-US bombings, the Home Office broadened the international conspiracy clauses to apply to drug dealers and transfrontiers. But they narrowed its impact by requiring the Attorney General's authority to prosecute.

Peer after peer attacked the clauses. Past support for the ANC was cited, with its "terrorist" attacks on electricity pylons. Peers also cited their past backing for Kurdish (Avebury), Sudanese (Avebury, Cox), and Kosovo insurgents. Lord Hylton mentioned his help for the breakaway dissidents of Nagorno-Karabakh, Trans-Dniestr, the

Chechens and Abkhazias. There was no mention of the role of Tory ex MP Winston Churchill in providing missiles for the Afghan rebels against Soviet occupation.

Labour's Lord Kinnear, often a strong critic of Washington, recalled how the CIA's "terrorists" had laid mines in a Nicaraguan harbour in the 80s, sinking a British ship. Lord Desai, a British ship, Lord Desai, who spent August in Islamabad, warned that the international conspiracy clauses identified Britain with the US policies loathed by the Muslim world.

Despite such widespread and pointed opposition, because no one wanted to throw a spanner in the Irish peace process, the legislation was passed without a vote.

Andrew Roth's Parliamentary Profiles: the new A-D section, is published this week.

Inge Aicher-Scholl

Keeper of the White Rose

INGE Aicher-Scholl, who has died aged 81, was an educationalist and peace campaigner who became the conscience of post-war Germany following the execution of her brother and sister for organising resistance against the Nazis.

Hans and Sophie Scholl, students at Munich University, were beheaded in February 1943 for distributing leaflets on behalf of the *White Rose* (White Rose) resistance group.

Although Inge was not a member of the White Rose, she was imprisoned for six months following the execution, along with the rest of her family. Her account of the resistance group, first published in 1962, ranks alongside *The Diary of Anne Frank* as one of the best-known books of the Third Reich for the post-war generation of Germans.

When the war ended, she devoted herself to creating through education and political activism the society Hitler's internal opponents referred to as "*Das andere Deutschland*" — the other Germany. She built with her

own hands (literally) one of the country's first post-war adult education centres, opened a design school as a successor to Bauhaus and, in her sixties, was arrested for her part in protests against American nuclear missiles.

Inge was the daughter of Robert Scholl, a liberal-minded accountant who encouraged his five children to read widely and think freely. "My father was a democrat during the days of the Weimar Republic and opposed all forms of rightwing extremism. It was a very important political basis that we children benefited from," she said last year.

Robert Scholl warned his children against Hitler from the start but Hans joined the Hitler Youth and Inge became a group leader of its female equivalent, the Bund Deutscher Mädel (BDM). Hans soon became disillusioned with the Nazis and attempted to establish his own, liberal group within the Hitler Youth. This prompted a Gestapo raid on the Scholl home in 1937 which confirmed the family's reputation as enemies of the regime.

By 1942, Hans and Sophie were studying at Munich University where they met a group of like-minded medical students and formed the *White Rose*. The origin of the group's name is unclear but its aim was simple — to encourage Germans to resist Hitler, passively at first and then actively.

The students crept through the streets of Munich in the

attempting to buy large quantities immediately fell under official suspicion.

The leaflets reported on the mass extermination of the Jews and other atrocities committed by the Nazis and the SS and called for the creation of a new Germany after the end of the war. One read, "For the sake of future generations, an example must be set after the war so that no

with a large suitcase filled with leaflets, placing stacks of them outside each lecture hall. As they left the building, they realised there were many leaflets left in the suitcase. They turned, climbed the stairs to the top landing of the glass-roofed inner court, where Sophie dumped the remaining contents of the suitcase into the courtyard below.

A janitor spotted them and they were arrested and charged with high treason, along with their best friend, Christoph Probst. After a trial lasting just four hours, all three were condemned to death by guillotine, a sentence carried out the same afternoon.

The Gestapo arrested the rest of the Scholl family and after Inge's release from prison she spent the final months of the war with her mother and sister in the Black Forest where they were soon joined by Olaf Aicher, another opponent of the Nazis, whom she married a few years later.

Inge was convinced that education was the key to reforming Germany after the

war and to ensuring that the horror of Nazi dictatorship should not happen again. "Explaining what happened as precisely and honestly as possible. My husband suggested I should set up this adult education centre," she said.

While other inhabitants of the Bavarian town of Ulm were attempting to organise their next meal or a few pieces of firewood, she went looking for rooms and teachers for her school. She built the school brick by brick, ferrying rubble across town on her bicycle.

Resources were so limited at first that lecturers were given a light bulb before each class which they were instructed to return to the secretary as soon as they were finished. Yet she attracted some of Germany's leading literary figures to her school, including Heinrich Böll and Martin Buber.

Inge and Olaf opened a College of Design in Ulm in 1953, hoping to continue the pre-war Bauhaus tradition. She ran the college for 21 years but continued to devote much of her time to keeping alive



Aicher-Scholl: conscience of post-war Germany

the memory of the White Rose.

During the 1960s, she joined the songwriter Wolf Biermann in protests against the stationing of United States medium-range nuclear missiles in Germany. She was arrested in 1965 for taking part in a sit-down at a nuclear base and given a suspended prison sentence.

A shadow fell over her life when Olaf was killed in a road accident and, a few months before her own death, she was still grieving for him. "I miss him all the time, quite apart

from anything personal or romantic, I just miss him," she said. "We sat at the table outside every evening and drank a bottle of wine and he would say nothing. There was a time when I suffered with him on account of that. But then one day I thought, he is silent with him. That's the best thing, then you're together."

Denise Staunton

Inge Aicher-Scholl, writer and educationalist, born August 11, 1917; died September 4, 1998

Lal Waterson

In the shadow of her sister

LAL WATerson, who has died of cancer aged 55, was one of Britain's most celebrated folk singers and a member of The Watsonsons, the Yorkshire family group whose passionate unaccompanied harmonies have been the driving force of English traditional song for the past three decades. Yet her most telling contribution may not have been as a singer at all, but as a songwriter whose inventiveness was deeply underrated and only rarely showcased due to the Watsonsons' popularity as traditional performers.

Her 1996 album, *Once in a Blue Moon*, when she teamed up with her guitarist/producer son Oliver Knight, was a haunting work, demonstrating the dark qualities of her earthy voice and a range of songs involving mysterious characters and deep emotions. Yet it was eclipsed by the success of her sister, Norma Waterson, whose album came out in the same year.

That Lal's work was overlooked was largely due to her modesty. She disliked publicity and avoided interviews. Yet behind closed doors she was a warm, kind-hearted woman, fiercely committed to her family and her roots.



First family of folk: (from left) Lal, Martin Carthy, niece Rachel Waterson, Norma Waterson, Mike Waterson

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVE PEARSON

She was brought up in Hull by an Irish, party-going grandmother, whose incessant informal singing sessions imbued the whole family with a love of music, ranging from music-hall to jazz and opera. Lal, elder brother Mike, Norma and cousin John Harrison dived with skiffle before gravitating towards English folk song. Their dynamic singing and colourful repertoire rapidly established the family group at the fore-

front of the burgeoning folk revival of the early 1960s. It was a role enhanced by their involvement with one of the earliest folk clubs of the day, The Bluebell in Hull, where they established their reputation as pioneers of the English traditional music revival with their early albums, *The Watsonsons*, *Yorkshire Garland* and *Frost & Fire*.

Lal never intended to be a singer. She went to art school

and trained as a painter and was for seven years she worked as a heraldic artist painting coats of arms, and continued to paint throughout her career. Her writing blossomed during The Watsonsons' four-year "retirement" from 1968. Lal married to George Knight, started turning her prolific output of poetry into song form, work untravelling with a vengeance on The Watsonsons' controversial comeback album of 1972.

Bright Phoenix. Backed by an electric band which included Richard Thompson, Lal's complex, brooding tales particularly confused the die-hards. Yet her material from that landmark album has proved exceptionally durable. Enraptured by its "Bergian" imagery, June Tabor still features *The Scarecrow* — one of the album's most demanding songs — in her own set.

With Norma's husband,

Martin Carthy, now in the group, The Watsonsons went on to release a succession of classic albums through the 1970s and 1980s, notably *For Pence and Spicy Ale*, and in 1977 Lal and Norma recorded a fascinating duet album *A True Healed Girl*, which also featured Lal's young daughter Maria.

Partly due to ill health and partly to disenchantment with life on the road, Lal withdrew from public perfor-

mance completely, living in Robin Hood's Bay in North Yorkshire, devoting herself to writing and a loose involvement with the No Master's music co-operative. She had just completed a new album with son Oliver shortly before her death.

Colin Irwin

Lal (Elaine) Waterson, folk singer, born February 15, 1943; died September 4, 1998

Mary Lou Clements-Mann

An enemy of Aids

PROFESSOR Mary Lou Clements-Mann, who died with her husband, Jonathan Mann, in the Swiss air crash, was a globally important figure in the field of Aids vaccine research and conducting trials with her students returned to Thailand, Uganda and a dozen other countries to set up their own national vaccine units.

A principal investigator for the US National Institutes of Health, she was a zealous advocate of the controversial idea that every promising new Aids vaccine should be immediately and thoroughly evaluated in human studies. Both she and her husband, a former director of the World Health Organisation's Global Programme on Aids, had publicly criticised the slow pace of the US government's Aids

vaccine research and development efforts. Mary Lou, who was 51, graduated in chemistry at Texas Tech University and received her doctorate in medicine from the University of Texas Southwestern. She also studied at Temple University Hospital, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, where she received her Master of Public Health degree.

Her first professional duties were in India, initially as special epidemiologist and then as state co-ordinator, for the WHO smallpox eradication programme. Participation in this magnificent triumph led to a lifelong commitment to research on vaccines for a wide variety of microbial disease threats.

First at the University of Maryland, and then at Johns Hopkins where she was director of the Centre for Immunisation Research, she conducted more than 100 research studies involving thousands of volunteers. Her special talent was in studies of experimental vaccines in healthy humans, in such a way that safety was always paramount but scientific yield was maximised.

With an unparalleled understanding of how vaccines react in normal persons, she worked to develop and test the rotavirus vaccine which protects infants and children against deadly epidemic viral diarrhoea, and conducted pivotal clinical research studies in a number of influenza vaccines.

The couple were married only 20 months but it was



Mary Lou: special talent

apparent that this was the happiest period of Mary Lou's life. They were unselfconscious in their display of affection and while away Jonathan would send her flowers every day. I have no doubt they were holding hands in their final moments together.

Donald S Burke

Mary Lou Clements-Mann, epidemiologist, born September 17, 1946; died September 2, 1998

Vyakarnam Lakshmi

A taste of Indian music

VYAKARNAM Lakshmi, who has died aged 80, was best known in this country as the founder of the UK University Indian Classical Music Circuit that set standards for around a decade. But that was only one episode in a life — as diplomat, promoter and philanthropist — packed with movement, energy, drama. He had no sense of self-importance. Indeed, he was implicitly in awe of his own achievements, but always retained a sense of old-world formality.

Born in south India he gained the honorific first name "Vyakarnam" as part of his heritage. His fathers had moved further south in the teeth of invasion and finally reached the Mysore court. The ruler had quickly realised that a group of cultured Brahmins stood before him, and awarded them the title "Vyakarnam" or "grammarian".

Although Lakshmi had not started school until he was 11 — plague in the area meant that his family were constantly moving between towns — he still managed to live up to the title. He graduated with a science degree, and first worked in Simla with the British military, monitoring wartime Japanese broadcasts to India.

After independence in 1947, he became involved with the Indian Labour Forum in its fight for workers' rights, before entering the Indian diplomatic service. Trade became his speciality. After his first Bangkok posting, he was sent to New Zealand. He was then seconded to the Engineering Export Promotion Council, with postings around the



Lakshmi: irreverent

world. Finally work brought him to London, where he decided in 1972 to take early retirement and settle.

But retirement did not mean stasis. He turned to culture, and the music he so greatly loved. Remembering Beijing, where he had once watched a young Chinese woman performing Indian *Bharat Natyam* classical dance, he was convinced that audiences needed access to deeper knowledge than could be got from a single performance.

THE result was the UK University Music Circuit, which he set up with the crucial backing of his wife Mohana — a veena player of distinction. The circuit brought quality players from India to play in universities, but also to take workshops and give explanatory lecture-demonstrations. At its height, 30 institutions had bought into it.

It ran for just under 12 years, but sadly, was just be-

fore its time. Arts funding bodies had still not recognised the needs of music other than western, and universities themselves were under financial pressure. By what he considered bad management of some eye-disease projects in India that catered to the poor, he embraced the cause of inter-ocular lenses (IOL). He worked away at his old typewriter, calling on his vast network of friends, colleagues and relatives. Thus did the "aye camps" emerge and he persuaded the Commonwealth Secretariat to award a grant for 10 ophthalmologists a year to train in England in IOL techniques.

An honourable, upright man, he was never swayed by the world's failings: the grammarian in him firmly believed that people could be changed. He would write and phone the Arts Council to explain the nuances of Indian music to officers — whom he charmed. He explained the background to the Kashmiri *Rasam* to Tony Blair and Robin Cook. It is to be hoped that Blair and Co will notice the absence of mail from their erudite correspondent and regret its loss.

He is survived by one son.

Naseem Khan

Vyakarnam Lakshmi, promoter, philanthropist, born July 15, 1916; died August 18, 1998

Birthdays

Mike Aaronson, director-general, Save the Children, 58; Frank Avelin, singer, 58; Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, composer, 64; Michael Frazyn, author and playwright, 65; Margaret Hodge, MP, under-secretary of state for education, 54; Rachel Hester, actress, 54; Fred Jarvis, former general secretary, NUT, 74; Sir Denys Lasdun, architect, 84; Vice-Admiral Sir Roy Newham, 85; Jack Rosenthal, playwright, 67; Sir Harry Secombe, comedian and singer, 77; Prof Ernst Sondheimer, mathematician, 75.

Death Notices

CAMPBELL, Simon Fraser, born 10th May 1912, Edinburgh, died 2nd September 1998, Malaga. A kind liberal father, proud Scottish Highlander, handsome RAF veteran and loyal public servant. Leaves wife, Anne, and four children, three sons and one daughter, all in the RAF.

GRUFFIN, Catherine Jane, on 3rd September peacefully in Sutton, Bedfordshire, aged 89. Buried at Luton Crematorium on 11th September at 2pm. Friends welcome. Tel: 01525 842211.

MAWBY, Thomas, aged 97, following sudden death, funeral at Fulgrave Parish Church, York, Friday 11th September at 2pm. Friends welcome.

PICKERING, Edith, on 31 August 1998 at 90, West Yorkshire. Edith, aged 90, wife of the late William Pickering, formerly of Bradford, Lancashire, and a beloved sister of the late William. Sadly missed by sister Norma, of Bradford, and a host of friends. Tel: 0161 843 2677.

To place your advertisement telephone 011 73 527 or fax 011 73 407 between 9am and 5pm Mon-Fri.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

IN OUR report about the comic strip version of *A la recherche du temps perdu* (page 12, yesterday), we added 10 years to Proust's age. He was born on July 10, 1871, and died on November 18, 1922, making him 61 not 62.

WHEN Sir Edward Heath, listed the supporters of Dr Martin Neary, the former organist of Westminster Abbey, (page 6, yesterday), he mentioned the composer John Tavener (not John Taverner, who died in 1945).

IN A report about Rampton United Football Club, (page 4, Sport, September 4),

we said the monument overlooking the club's ground commemorated the "buntingsman John Peel". As the author of the piece pointed out in his match report (page 3, Sport, yesterday), it has nothing to do with John Peel. It was built in honour of Sir Robert Peel, the Prime Minister, to say thank you for repealing the Corn Laws (1846).

HORSHAM, mentioned in Zeitgeist (page 5, Guardian Weekend, September 5), is in West Sussex, not East Sussex.

FRIDAY and Rose West lived at 25 Cromwell Street not Crom-

well Road, as the contents strip on the front of G2 said yesterday.

IN OUR strip across the top of Page 2 yesterday, advertising the contents of today's paper, we mentioned Linda Grant's column. Don't look for it. She began a six-month sabbatical last week.

READERS who noticed that the date on Page 2, G2, yesterday, was December 7, were right not to panic.

THE DESIGNER of the red telephone box (page 3, Space supplement, southern editions, September 4), was Sir

Giles Gilbert Scott. The Giles is included to distinguish him from his famous grandfather Sir (George) Gilbert Scott, and from his lesser-known father, another George Gilbert Scott.

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor by telephoning 0171 233 5589 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Surface mail to Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC4A 3DF. Fax: 0171 233 9897. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

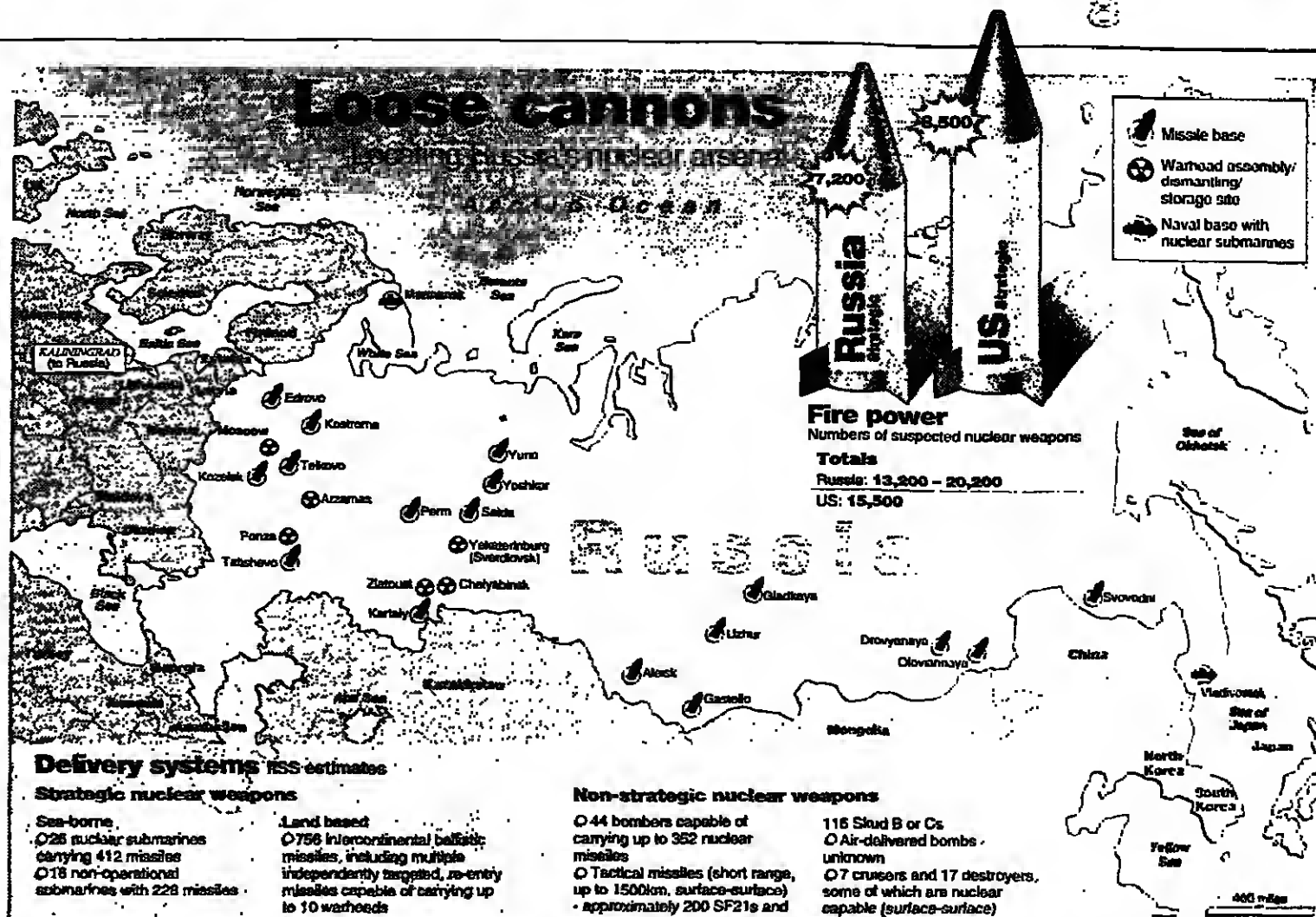
مكتبة القرآن الكريم

Analysis Nuclear threat



Hugo Young
on Manchester
United

Whose code on the firing pad, whose finger on the trigger?



When political chaos reigns in Moscow to whom do sub captains and missile engineers stay loyal and obedient? Computers fail, repairs aren't done and "command and control" is a moveable feast. Despite all that says **Richard Norton-Taylor** Russian nukes are safer than they look.

IN FEBRUARY last year workers at the Impuls Institute near St Petersburg responsible for maintaining the control systems of Russia's nuclear intercontinental ballistic missile system went on strike. They had not been paid for eight months and their equipment was deteriorating because of a lack of funds. Three days later, the Russian defence minister, Igor Rodionov, already angry about the state of his country's conventional forces, decided to have it out with the president, Boris Yeltsin. Falling to get in touch with him by phone — Yeltsin was ill — Rodionov wrote him a deeply disturbing letter. "If the shortage of funds persists...Russia may soon approach a threshold beyond which its missiles and nuclear systems become uncontrollable" (1).

On Wednesday last General Aleksandr Lebed, governor of the Krasnoyarsk region in Siberia said he had warned President Clinton that the situation in Russia was catastrophic. "The situation is worse than in 1917. Now we have huge stockpiles of poorly guarded nuclear weapons". Exaggeration? Rodionov may simply have been seizing

an opportunity to summon political support for increases in Russia's defence budget. Lebed, an eye on the presidential election, was after headlines. He likes to shock — when he was visited by Western intelligence agents after claiming that nuclear material hidden in 100 suitcases had gone missing, he quickly backtracked. Yet governments and independent analysts in the West are increasingly worried. In 1994 Clinton and Yeltsin agreed to stop targeting strategic missiles at each other's country but the move was militarily insignificant, re-loading a computer-targeting system into a missile can be done in a matter of seconds. Besides, who controls Russia's nuclear arsenal? Yeltsin's grip on power is fast eroding, along with support from a demoralised military. Yet Russia, like the United Kingdom, still clings to a "launch on warning" strategy. "In the old days, the Soviets were very careful about command and control but we are in a wholly new ballgame", says Paul Rogers of Bradford University's School of Peace Studies. "The bottom line is we have never experienced a major nuclear power threatening to come apart".

At last week's Moscow summit Clinton and Yeltsin signed an agreement to share information on testing of missiles and launches of space vehicles launches. "This will reduce the possibility of nuclear war by mistake or accident", said Clinton. This, according to Robert Bell, Clinton's special assistant for national security affairs, was "especially relevant at a time when Russia's early warning system is under stress from budget difficulties, systems failures and the closure of early warning radars on the soil of nations outside Russia". Independent American experts were warning last year that only a third of Russia's modern early-warning radars were working at all, and at least two of the nine sites in its array of missile-warning satellites were empty. In early 1996 there was a serious incident. Early on the morning of 25 January a Norwegian-American research team launched a large four-stage Black Brant XII rocket as part of a long-term programme to observe the Northern Lights. To avoid false alarms, such experiments were notified in advance to the Russian authorities, and the Norwegian foreign min-

istry had sent them a letter announcing the impending launch. Possibly as a result of the chaotic state of the Russian bureaucracy at the time, the message was not received by Russian radar crews (2). The Black Brant XII rocket was much larger than those used in previous experiments and its four stages resembled the multiple stages of an American submarine-launched Trident missile. Aware that a Trident missile launched off the north coast of Norway could scatter eight nuclear bombs over Moscow within 15 minutes, the radar operators immediately alerted their superiors. The message passed from Russia's command and control system, Kazbek, to Yeltsin who quickly contacted his top advisers on the telephone. For the first time, his "nuclear briefcase" was activated. The radar crews continued to track the missile. After about eight minutes — a few minutes short of the procedural deadline to respond to an impending nuclear attack — the trackers decided the missile was heading out to sea and was no threat to Russia after all (3). That sort of risk led to this week's agreement in Moscow. But the danger does not come only from mistakes or accidents. There is a widespread view that Russia's command and control system, rigidly formalised and hierarchical in the days of the Soviet Union, could fall apart. "A collapse of economic markets that leads to [a] rubble devaluation...could indeed lead to a chaos in which control of dangerous weapons and [nuclear] weapons material could be even less secure". That's Graham Allison, an expert on Russia's nuclear weapons systems at Harvard University and a former Pentagon official (4). A strong supporter of the injection of more financial support for Russia, he said "I would be more frightened than they [the US defence secretary and chairman of the Joint Chiefs

of Staff] are about the extent of the meltdown of authority in the Russian military and security ministries. I think the description 'progressive degradation' of central nuclear command and control is correct. If we need a metaphor for it, it is the Mir space programme — which of course is of a piece with their military programme — where computers fail, systems degrade, repairs are intermittent and in which life becomes more precarious". Physical problems are essentially the result of Russia's financial crisis. They are compounded by the erosion of political control, and in particular the growing tensions between Yeltsin and the military exemplified by Lebed.

Formally, Russia's nuclear command and control system is secured through two different types of code which are constantly changed: an authenticating code and an enabling code. The authenticating code is designed to ensure that the president, the commander in chief, alone can order regional command centres on land and submarines at sea to launch an attack. To put it simply, the telephone rings, the military

commander knows it is the president on the line by the digital code he gives. The commanders then punch in enabling codes to activate their weapons systems. (The locking system of some, but by no means all, of these enabling codes have recently been strengthened with American technical help.)

HOWEVER, it has always been a myth that a single person — the president — is in control of the authenticity code. His authority is essentially nominal. Other people have access to it and can change it. This would happen anyway if Yeltsin were shot. There is no single, central transmitter from the Kremlin, Russia's political centre, to all military regional commands. The coded system could be infiltrated as it communicated to the commands via the Russian defence ministry. The issue is not one of access, or of central control. It is one of security.

It is also a question of loyalty. The enabling codes which unlock the weapons can be broken without the authenticating code from the central

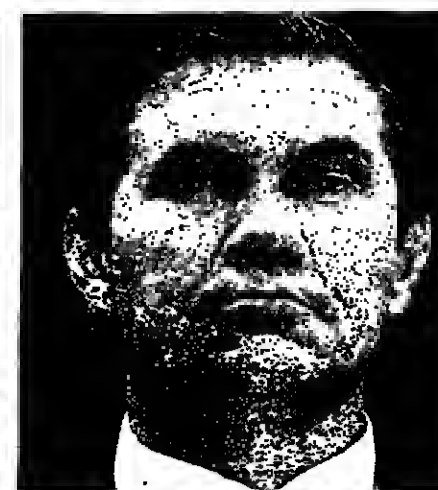
(political control) system. And these enabling controls are held in regional command centres. "A lot of Russian weapons systems are not subject to direct physical control even formally they rely ultimately on loyalty and obedience to procedures", according to Shaun Gregory, an acknowledged authority on command and control systems at the Bradford School.

The Russian command and control system is more vulnerable to seizure of central power by the military, however unlikely this scenario has come to look. Meanwhile some of Russia's nuclear submarines are not subject to control by any enabling code system, nor are some of its shorter-range tactical nuclear weapons systems. This is not unique. Britain's Trident missile submarine commanders are also subject only to the authenticating code. But while in the Russian case, this is the result of wartime exigencies — with submarines and battlefield commanders assumed to be out of contact with regional command centres — in Britain it is based on the assumption that central political control will always be legitimate. Royal Navy

commanders have been affronted by any suggestion they would not automatically be loyal to the "authenticator" — i.e. the prime minister. The possibility of genuine mistakes and accidental launches remains as long as the United States and Russia keep to their present military doctrines and as long as they possess so many nuclear weapons. American government officials, including Stansfield Turner, ex-director of the CIA, have suggested more radical moves. These include "de-alerting" and electronic "seals" that guarantee an essential component of a missile has not been replaced after removal. The ultimate goal must be to separate nuclear warheads from their missiles and then eliminate them. Credible verification procedures would be needed.

Such steps would be opposed by those who still fear a secretly-prepared surprise attack. Yet despite the vulnerability of Russia's nuclear command and control system, the possibility of rogue sections of the military planning to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons must be remote. What would be the point? A more realistic threat is the danger of demoralised, impoverished, Russian soldiers selling nuclear material to rogue regimes and environmental damage from degraded nuclear systems.

Sources (1) Taking Nuclear Weapons off Hair-Trigger Alert, Scientific American, November 1977; (2) Learning from the Cold War Confrontation, chapter for forthcoming book by Paul Rogers, Deconstructing the Cold War, (3) the tale is told in full in the Scientific American article; (4) Aviation Week and Space Technology, July 20, 1998. Graphics Sources: University of Bradford School of Peace Studies; Institute of Strategic Studies. Graphics: Paddy Allen. Research: Jane Crinion, Matthew Keating. Richard Norton-Taylor is the Guardian's security editor.



The angry minister, Igor Rodionov and the shocking general, Aleksandr Lebed

Do you have difficulty obtaining your copy of

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

00 44 171 713 4131

Email: john.adams@guardian.co.uk

or write to: John Adams, 119 Farringdon Road London EC1R 3ER

4p a week on tax to lift debt burden

Larry Elliott
Economics Editor

AID agencies are to step up their pressure on the Government to act unilaterally to ease the burden on the world's poorest nations as new figures showed that writing off official debts to the UK would cost the average taxpayer less than 4p a week.

Using data supplied by the House of Commons Library, the Jubilee 2000 coalition said Britain "could easily afford to carry out a total cancellation of the debts owed to it by the poorest countries in the developing world".

Development agencies are calling on the UK — which has been at the forefront of attempts to speed up assistance to more impoverished nations — to take the lead in restoring momentum to the debt-cancellation programme.

They are concerned that a lack of political will and a concentration on the crisis in Asia has resulted in the Heavily Indebted Poor Country Initiative (HIPC) — launched two years ago by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund — being a missed opportunity.

Oxfam International said a Bank/Fund progress report into HIPC — being considered by the Bank today and by the Fund on Thursday — was a "whitewash".

It added that, without radical changes, the paper could "seriously damage the credibility of creditor governments, the World Bank and IMF".

Only one country — Uganda — has so far actually received debt relief as part of the HIPC process, although Bolivia will become the second by the end of this month.

Oxfam is arguing that the process should be speeded up — with the qualification period cut from six years to three, more resources provided, more realistic levels of

debt sustainability, and debt forgiveness linked to specific human development programmes.

A World Bank spokesman said that the paper being considered this week was a technical review of progress over the past two years, and that staff had not been asked to come up with a new blueprint for HIPC.

However, the document proposes that the eligibility data for the initiative should be extended until 2000 and that conditions for post-conflict countries should be eased.

Jubilee 2000 said that the bulk of the UK's official development country debt was owed to the Export Credit Guarantee Department, with a much smaller amount owed to the Department for International Development.

It concluded that the cost of forgiveness for 52 poor countries would be a maximum of £74 million a year, by comparison with Britain's national output of £742 billion.

"Any attempt to justify keeping such debts on the books and demanding payments from debtor governments on the grounds of cost is simply not credible," Jubilee 2000 said. "The cost of cancellation is likely to be about £1 to £2 per year for each taxpayer."

This view was supported by a research paper written by the Economic Policy and Statistics Section of the House of Commons Library.

It concluded: "There may be political reasons against the UK unilaterally cancelling bilateral debt."

"However, in terms of the effect on the Public Sector Net Cash Requirement, a programme of cancellation of all outstanding amounts due to the ECGD from 26 HIPCs (regardless of whether the sums are payable or repayable) would account for a very small proportion of government receipts. The cost would seem to be generally affordable."

Glimmer of hope in world markets

Shares surge in London

Mark Milner
Deputy Financial Editor

LONDON'S stock market recorded its second highest points rise on record as share prices around the world were rallied by the prospect of lower US interest rates.

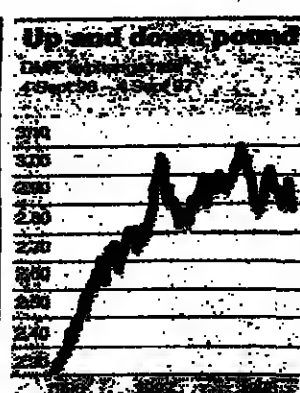
But on the foreign exchanges the pound slipped to its lowest level for three months against the German mark.

Global stock market sentiment was boosted by weekend comments from the US Federal Reserve chairman, Alan Greenspan, which hinted that lower borrowing costs were on the way. The growing consensus that UK interest rates have peaked and that they could be cut before the end of the year helped to push the pound below DM1.67.

Analysts will be looking to Wall Street, closed for a holiday yesterday, to endorse the more upbeat mood which prevailed on stock markets in both Europe and Asia. There is widespread scepticism that financial market turmoil is at an end.

"On the international scene, we want to see some more political stability in Russia as a prerequisite," Charterhouse Bank chief economist Richard Jeffrey said. "In Japan, we need to see a fiscal package with credibility that goes some way towards re-igniting consumer demand. We also need to have some reassurance from the situation in Latin America as well."

In London the FTSE followed the tone set by Asian markets — where Japan, Malaysia, Hong Kong and South Korea posted strong gains — and rose 130 points to 5347.



an increase of almost 3.5 per cent.

Analysts said that volume was light and, in an apparent indication of the fragility of the market's more upbeat approach, the BSE's bid for Manchester United was an

other factor cited as helping to boost sentiment. Frankfurt put on an early sprint but fell back slightly by the close to leave the Dax index up 1.6 per cent on the day.

"Today it was a technical. After a lot of losses there's naturally a counter-reaction," one trader said. "It could continue for a few days. That's my scenario."

Dealers said Mr Greenspan's hint that US interest rates may fall was fueling bank shares which had suffered a battering in recent weeks.

Paris was among the weakest performers. An opening gain of nearly 2 per cent dwindled away to almost nothing. French traders said the rebound fuelled by Asian market strength looked technical and there was still good cause for market nerves.

Analysts were still wary that any US stocks rebound

Fund managers see British stocks as undervalued

FUND managers have been buying UK stocks as a result of the recent falls in the stock market even though they are pessimistic about profit prospects for many companies, writes Jill Treanor. The monthly Merrill Lynch Global Survey also shows that

nearly all the 83 fund managers questioned believe interest rates will fall and none expect them to be higher in a year.

Only 3 per cent expect an uptick in economic growth, a view reflected in a dramatic move out of UK property last month.

"Most managers see the UK markets as undervalued and they have turned into strong buyers," said Trevor Greenham, global strategist at Merrill Lynch, which conducted the survey between August 28 and September 2.

on Mr Greenspan's comments may not be long-lasting. Emerging markets, particularly Latin America, are still fragile.

"Clearly Latin America is on the verge of repeating the Asian and Eastern European

experience. That is going to call into question quite how insulated the US economy and the dollar are from the emerging markets contagion," said Paul Meggs, senior currency economist at Deutsche Bank in London.



Flagging hopes... South Korean bank workers, whose jobs are at risk as the industry shrinks, demonstrate at a rally in Seoul yesterday.

PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL BARKER

Airbus hope for 10,000 jobs

David Gow
Industrial Editor

THE proposed European super-jumbo would create 10,000 jobs in Britain, Airbus said yesterday. In its latest attack on US rival Boeing, the four-nation European consortium said the aircraft would capture a huge slice of a \$200 billion market.

Airbus, in which British Aerospace has a 20 per cent stake, also revealed plans for a new short-haul aircraft, the A350, to take on Boeing's 737.

Airbus chief executive Noel Forgeard said the new 480 to 650-seat, double-decker jumbo, the A3XX, would be launched in late 1999 and enter service in 2001.

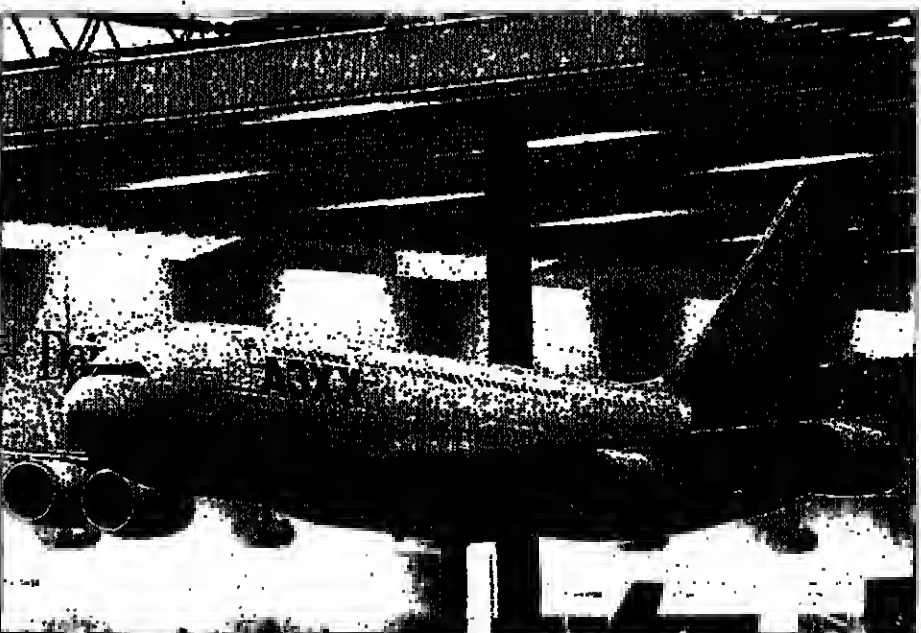
As well as creating 10,000 jobs in the UK, it will safeguard 40,000 British jobs, involving more than 400 companies. Derby-based Rolls-Royce hopes to build the engines.

BAA claimed the rival to Boeing's traditional 747 series would bring economic benefits for at least 40 years, including nearly £20 billion in net British export earnings.

Airbus reckons the market for the "Euro-jumbo" will be \$200 billion — a quarter of aerospace manufacturers' estimated turnover for 30 years. "We can't let a market of this importance continue to be monopolised by our competitors," Mr Forgeard said. But the consortium's chief executive admitted that the total investment required to launch the plane would be US\$10 billion (£6.3 billion), \$2 billion more than originally estimated amid continuing doubts that the four partners can raise the sums or persuade their governments to offer up to a third of the capital in launch aid.

Airbus, which claims to have "nibbled" at Boeing's monopoly of large aircraft through its wide-body jets, insists that super-jumbos are essential in future despite the world economic downturn and pending cyclical recession in aerospace. Airbus says it has the support of 20 airlines, including British Airways, in developing the A3XX.

Boeing, however, yesterday derided the project's viability. Bruce Dennis, Boeing marketing vice-president, said: "If



The 1/20th scale model of the \$5 billion, double-decker Airbus A3XX unveiled yesterday.

the market wants such a plane, we will offer a larger aircraft and with more range. The A3XX could fly 10,000 miles.

Airbus, which announced a three per cent rise in prices, said its new A318 would be a shortened version of the 124-seat A319. It claims that these variants of the single-aisle A320 range, will help it out-sell Boeing's 727 soon.

Airbus dominated the opening day of the Farnborough International Air Show with an upbeat presentation of its prospects as it slowly moves to become a full-scale public company in mid-1999.

This contrasted sharply with an unusually defensive display by troubled Boeing whose faltering president, Harry Stonecipher, issued a remarkable mea culpa for the "difficult and disappointing" performance of the world's largest aerospace company. He admitted that Boeing, which last year made losses for the first time in 50 years and sacked 25,000 employees, had been "too arrogant, too distracted or too self-satisfied".

Boeing yesterday confirmed plans by the Dutch airline, KLM, to buy four new 737-900s and by the International Lease Finance Corporation to order 17 new planes.

Germans clear Dasa-Bae merger for take-off

David Gow
Industrial Editor

THE German government last night gave the green light for British Aerospace and Daimler-Benz Aerospace (Dasa) to merge in the face of growing impatience at the pace of European restructuring.

The French government has sought in effect to veto a fusion of Bae and Dasa, claiming that this would amount to unacceptable Anglo-German dominance of Airbus and the proposed European Aerospace and Defence Company.

However Günther Rexrodt, the German economics minister, said he was

dissatisfied with progress in turning Airbus into a stand-alone company.

"Therefore it is logical that discussions come up over different constellations, speeds and possibilities of coming together in the creation of this European firm," he said.

He was speaking after talks at Farnborough with trade and industry secretary Peter Mandelson and French and Spanish colleagues.

Jean-Claude Goyssot, the French transport minister, insisted that the planned partial privatisation of state-owned Aerospatiale had transformed the situation.

But Bae and Dasa say that this does not go far enough and have held talks about a possible merger.

Opening the international air show, the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, said it was "urgent and vital" that European restructuring went ahead swiftly.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.74	Germany 2.76	Malaysia 5.77	Singapore 2.55
Austria 13.59	Greece 42.42	Malta 0.52	South Africa 10.85
Belgium 57.57	Hong Kong 12.56	Netherlands 3.13	Spain 235.87
Canada 2.465	India 71.35	New Zealand 3.18	Sweden 12.91
Cyprus 0.822	Ireland 1.104	Norway 12.85	Switzerland 2.80
Denmark 10.85	Israel 5.56	Portugal 203.59	Turkey 443.70
Finland 8.584	Italy 2.770	Saudi Arabia 6.14	USA 1.821
France 9.328			

Supplied by Reuters (excluding rupee, shilling and malot)

Rate hint triggers rare Asian rally

Jonathan Watts in Tokyo
and Mark Milner

ASIA's beleaguered financial markets staged a rare rally yesterday, driven higher by hopes of lower US interest rates, curbs on speculators and a stronger Japanese yen.

Best performer was Malaysia where the main stock market index stormed more than 20 per cent higher, though there were reports the move had been boosted by government intervention.

In Japan, the yen climbed once again against the dollar, reaching a four-month high of 131.59 against the US currency by late afternoon, helping Japan's Nikkei 225 to gain 5.32 per cent. Weekend comments by the Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan, which were interpreted as a signal that US interest rates could soon be cut, spurred the yen's advance.

Hong Kong's benchmark Hang Seng index ended at a six-week high, finishing up 583.29 points, or 7.9 per cent, at 8,076.76 while the Singapore stock market put on its best performance for the year, scoring a 7 per cent rise.

In Hong Kong, investors were encouraged by the easing of interest rates that followed the government's announcement on Saturday of

measures to ease the credit crunch, which is hurting local firms.

In a sign of how the recent market chaos has shaken free-market ideals, investors also gave a cautious welcome to the administration's decision to tighten stock exchange regulations, a move designed to deter attacks on the local markets.

"It is probably negative market news, but it is a sign of a government taking place all around the world, the provision of stability is probably much more important than worrying about the perception of Hong Kong as a market," said one senior analyst.

That logic has been taken to an extreme in Malaysia, where the Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir Mohamad, yesterday appointed himself finance minister, replacing the market-friendly former vice prime minister, Anwar Ibrahim, whom he sacked last week.

On the first day of Dr Mahathir's one-man economic rule, share prices on the Malaysian bourse jumped 25 per cent. Analysts said local funds were "under instruction" to ensure that the market rose.

Elsewhere stocks in Singapore, South Korea and Australia, enjoyed gains of more than 2 per cent.

Russian banker pays price for rouble crisis

Mark Milner and
Martin Walker

RUSSIA'S central bank chairman, Sergei Dubinin, resigned yesterday as he paid the penalty for the financial crisis that has forced the devaluation of the rouble and swept through the country's banking system.

He was replaced, temporarily, by his deputy, Sergei Alekshin, until a permanent replacement is appointed by the Russian parliament.

Mr Dubinin's resignation came as six of Russia's biggest banks agreed to hand over deposits, until a permanent replacement is appointed by the Russian parliament.

Mr Dubinin's resignation came as six of Russia's biggest banks agreed to hand over deposits, until a permanent replacement is appointed by the Russian parliament.

As Russia fought to restore some semblance of stability to its crisis-hit banking system it emerged that EU officials are looking at the possibility that the euro, the planned European single currency, could be used as the peg for a possible Russian currency board to defend the rouble.

The proposal, which could be put to the extraordinary joint meeting of the Group of Seven finance and

foreign ministers in London at the weekend, would depend on a new Russian government being ready to surrender its sovereignty over financial policy and the money supply. It would also help boost the euro's standing as a rival to the dollar's status as the world's reserve currency.

"The idea is very interesting and could be useful, but it may be premature until the Russians get their political house in order," a senior EU official said.

The Russian government has already announced it is looking at the possibility of establishing a currency board to try to stabilise the rouble, which has slumped in value by almost two-thirds in two weeks.

However, its plans are likely to include printing roubles in order to provide liquidity to Russia's cash-strapped financial system and to pay arrears of wages and pensions. Such a move would be politically popular in Russia but would not help to anchor the rouble.

This is the second time a rouble devaluation has cost Mr Dubinin his job. He was sacked as finance minister in October 1994 after the rouble fell by 25 per cent.

News in brief

North Sea oil tax reform scrapped

THE Government ended 12 months of dithering over North Sea oil tax reform yesterday by shelving plans which had sent shock waves through the offshore industry and threatened to become a political problem for Labour in Scotland.

The change of heart comes at a time of depressed crude prices and fears that oil companies would steer clear of the 18th offshore licensing round which closes on Friday.

In March the Treasury had put forward two alternatives to the present system under which developers of new fields pay corporation tax at 30 per cent. One involved the imposition of a supplementary corporation tax. The other was the reintroduction of a profits-based petroleum tax abolished for new fields.

The oil industry gave the Treasury nearly £4bn in revenues last year. Yesterday it was jubilant that reform proposals had been scrapped with signs that the oil price could be finally bottoming out from a level of \$12 a barrel. — *Terry Macalister*

Timeshare duo jailed

TWO brothers were jailed yesterday for a time-share fraud. Roger Stead, a former justice of the peace, received a three-year jail sentence, with another concurrent for two years, after pleading guilty to one count of fraudulent trading and one count of false accounting. His elder brother, Michael Stead, 54, received four years and two years concurrent, after pleading guilty to fraud and false accounting.

Their timeshare business, Villa Investment Plan, based in Stamford, Lincolnshire, went into voluntary liquidation with debts of more than £7 million in January 1995. — *Jill Treanor*

FSA toughens guidelines

THE Financial Services Authority, the City's new watchdog, has beefed up the responsibility of senior managers in new proposals for the key "principles" used to regulate financial services companies.

It will set a tougher requirement for "management and control", one of the major concerns raised by the collapse of Barings bank.

In total, the FSA published eight principles for financial firms, which include conducting their business with "integrity" and organising its affairs with "due skill, care and diligence". — *Jill Treanor*

Racing

Godolphin shock waves in St Leger

Graham Rock

AT NOON yesterday, Godolphin declared three runners for the St Leger at Doncaster on Saturday, including the hot favourite Sea Wave.

However, after inspecting the team with Sheikh Mohammed at evening stables, Simon Crisford announced that Sea Wave would be switched to the Prix Niel at Longchamp the following afternoon, leaving Nedawi as their sole representative in the final Classic of the season.

Central Park, the third Godolphin entry, will join Sea Wave in the French race, which has attracted the French and Irish Derby winner Dream Well.

"We decided that if Sea Wave was going to be a genuine contender for the Arc, then he should take a more conventional route," Crisford explained.

Ellie had originally made Sea Wave favourite at 5-6 for the St Leger with Central Park on 9-1. In their absence, Nedawi is now Hills' market leader at 2-1. The Glow-Worm is 7-3, High And Low 6-1, Sadler and Star Begonia 13-2, De-Lim and Dark Moon-dancer, not yet a confirmed runner, are 8-1, Sunshine Street is 9-1, Eco Friendly 25-1 and Ardleigh Chamber 260-1.

With rain forecast to sweep across the country over the next few days, the Town Moor could be on the

soft side, and Nedawi has not raced on ground softer than good. On an important weekend for Godolphin, Bahr will run in the Prix Vermeille at Longchamp, where Predappio will contest the Prix Foy. John Reid will wear the blue colours on Swain in the Irish Champion Stakes at Leopardstown on Saturday, and Jerry Bailey has been booked to partner Daylami in the Man O' War Stakes at Belmont Park, New York.

Bookmakers found the going testing in the High Court yesterday when they lost their action against the Levy Board, which has sought to alter the rules for allocating the prize for the St Leger.

After six years of abortive discussions between the National Association of Bookmakers and the Racecourse Association to negotiate changes to the agreement, which expires next month, the Levy Board stepped in and imposed a settlement.

Mr Justice Owen said he had found in favour of the Levy Board because of the "extraordinary" situation, which threatened racing; starting prices are compiled from racecourse bookmakers and relayed to betting shops.

However, Mr Owen said that the case posed important questions of law for the racing world. "The judge has raised a question mark over the Board's powers in the longer term which will need clarification in the Court of Appeal," said Rodney Brack, the Chief Executive of the Levy Board.



Final indignity... Faldo misses the Friday cut on the Crans-sur-Sierre 18th. DAVID CANNON

Golf

Time for furrowed Faldo to kick-start the Ryder reckoning

David Davies on the way ahead for the Englishman who fluffed his return to Europe

WHEN Nick Faldo is worried he has a habit of running his right hand through his hair, repeatedly. It things go on much longer as he has been so far this season, Faldo will have a furrowed forehead, worn smooth by this little idiosyncrasy.

The Englishman, who has won six majors and earned more Ryder Cup match points than any other golfer, has won nothing since the Los Angeles Open 18 months ago, and last week at Crans-sur-Sierre he missed the cut in the Canon European Masters.

This was especially mortifying for a man who has temporarily abandoned his career on the American Tour specifically to play in a few rich European events, with the express intention of quickly making enough Ryder qualifying points to make the team. There are no prizes available for those who fail to play at the weekend.

Faldo wants to compete in the cup because he loves the feeling of taking the side to victory on the playing field, and he wants to get into the Ryder Cup because he hates the memory of what happened when Severiano Ballesteros was captain last time.

Immediately he was appointed, Ballesteros made it clear to the assembled scribes that no one was a certainty to play. "Eh ha," was the res-

ponse, "except for Nick." Ballesteros glared at them from the front of them. "No one is certain," he said, "not Nick, not anyone."

When it became obvious that Faldo was not going to qualify off the European rankings and that he was going to need to be picked by the captain, Ballesteros reiterated that he would pick whomever he chose; that reputations and points won in the past counted for nothing.

Across the Atlantic Faldo heard about these things, and actually became frantic. With a couple of weeks to go before the European team announcement, he betrayed his anxiety by saying: "I wish he'd either pick me, or tell me he's not picking me. This wondering is killing me."

Eventually Ballesteros, who could hardly have left him out, did pick him, and Faldo did Europe's cause proud by showing last week's Faldo said he did not want "to go through all that again" and revealed that he would be playing in four events: the Canon tournament and then three in a row, the Lande Trophy in Paris, the German Masters in Cologne and the Belgacom Open in Knokke-le-Zoute. Although he would not admit as much, he obviously hoped to have enough Ryder points by that time so that he could forget the whole business and get on

with the rest of his golf.

However, the competition in Europe gets tougher by the season. While Colin Montgomerie's comment that "any tournament is bigger with Nick Faldo in it" is still true, it is not as true as it was. He is not feared to quite the same degree, partly because of his absence and partly because his results since winning the most recent of his majors, the 1996 US Masters, have been distinctly dodgy.

He has only had one top-10 finish anywhere in the world this year, and that was eighth in the Johnnie Walker Classic in Thailand in January.

Before last week, the last time Faldo missed a cut in Europe was in February 1994 and while he has missed only four in the United States this year, he has been misfiring to such an extent that he has dropped out of the top 61 in the world rankings - the cut-off point for those who wish to qualify for the hugely rich World Championship events which start next year.

Years ago, when he had failed to win the 1984 US Masters, the caddies coined a nickname he detests. They called him El Faldo, the most inappropriate tag ever attached to a golfer, for Faldo has shown resilience and a steely determination in the face of unimaginable pressures all through his career.

He needs to apply those qualities again and get himself in the team for a European Ryder Cup side without Nick Faldo is, even at this stage, simply unthinkable.

Lingfield Jackpot programme

GRAHAM ROCK	TOP FORM
2.00	Harold
2.30	Albion
3.00	Shirley
3.30	Shirley
4.00	Shirley
4.30	Shirley
5.00	Shirley
5.30	Shirley
6.00	Shirley
6.30	Shirley
7.00	Shirley
7.30	Shirley
8.00	Shirley
8.30	Shirley
9.00	Shirley
9.30	Shirley
10.00	Shirley
10.30	Shirley
11.00	Shirley
11.30	Shirley
12.00	Shirley
12.30	Shirley
13.00	Shirley
13.30	Shirley
14.00	Shirley
14.30	Shirley
15.00	Shirley
15.30	Shirley
16.00	Shirley
16.30	Shirley
17.00	Shirley
17.30	Shirley
18.00	Shirley
18.30	Shirley
19.00	Shirley
19.30	Shirley
20.00	Shirley
20.30	Shirley
21.00	Shirley
21.30	Shirley
22.00	Shirley
22.30	Shirley
23.00	Shirley
23.30	Shirley
24.00	Shirley
24.30	Shirley
25.00	Shirley
25.30	Shirley
26.00	Shirley
26.30	Shirley
27.00	Shirley
27.30	Shirley
28.00	Shirley
28.30	Shirley
29.00	Shirley
29.30	Shirley
30.00	Shirley
30.30	Shirley
31.00	Shirley
31.30	Shirley
32.00	Shirley
32.30	Shirley
33.00	Shirley
33.30	Shirley
34.00	Shirley
34.30	Shirley
35.00	Shirley
35.30	Shirley
36.00	Shirley
36.30	Shirley
37.00	Shirley
37.30	Shirley
38.00	Shirley
38.30	Shirley
39.00	Shirley
39.30	Shirley
40.00	Shirley
40.30	Shirley
41.00	Shirley
41.30	Shirley
42.00	Shirley
42.30	Shirley
43.00	Shirley
43.30	Shirley
44.00	Shirley
44.30	Shirley
45.00	Shirley
45.30	Shirley
46.00	Shirley
46.30	Shirley
47.00	Shirley
47.30	Shirley
48.00	Shirley
48.30	Shirley
49.00	Shirley
49.30	Shirley
50.00	Shirley
50.30	Shirley
51.00	Shirley
51.30	Shirley
52.00	Shirley
52.30	Shirley
53.00	Shirley
53.30	Shirley
54.00	Shirley
54.30	Shirley
55.00	Shirley
55.30	Shirley
56.00	Shirley
56.30	Shirley
57.00	Shirley
57.30	Shirley
58.00	Shirley
58.30	Shirley
59.00	Shirley
59.30	Shirley
60.00	Shirley
60.30	Shirley
61.00	Shirley
61.30	Shirley
62.00	Shirley
62.30	Shirley
63.00	Shirley
63.30	Shirley
64.00	Shirley
64.30	Shirley
65.00	Shirley
65.30	Shirley
66.00	Shirley
66.30	Shirley
67.00	Shirley
67.30	Shirley
68.00	Shirley
68.30	Shirley
69.00	Shirley
69.30	Shirley
70.00	Shirley
70.30	Shirley
71.00	Shirley
71.30	Shirley
72.00	Shirley
72.30	Shirley
73.00	Shirley
73.30	Shirley
74.00	Shirley
74.30	Shirley
75.00	Shirley
75.30	Shirley
76.00	Shirley
76.30	Shirley
77.00	Shirley
77.30	Shirley
78.00	Shirley
78.30	Shirley
79.00	Shirley
79.30	Shirley
80.00	Shirley
80.30	Shirley
81.00	Shirley
81.30	Shirley
82.00	Shirley
82.30	Shirley
83.00	Shirley
83.30	Shirley
84.00	Shirley
84.30	Shirley
85.00	Shirley
85.30	Shirley
86.00	Shirley
86.30	Shirley
87.00	Shirley
87.30	Shirley
88.00	Shirley
88.30	Shirley
89.00	Shirley
89.30	Shirley
90.00	Shirley
90.30	Shirley
91.00	Shirley
91.30	Shirley
92.00	Shirley
92.30	Shirley
93.00	Shirley
93.30	Shirley
94.00	Shirley
94.30	Shirley
95.00	Shirley
95.30	Shirley
96.00	Shirley
96.30	Shirley
97.00	Shirley
97.30	Shirley
98.00	Shirley
98.30	Shirley
99.00	Shirley
99.30	Shirley
100.00	Shirley
100.30	Shirley

GRAHAM ROCK	TOP FORM
2.00	Harold
2.30	Albion
3.00	Shirley
3.30	Shirley
4.00	Shirley
4.30	Shirley
5.00	Shirley
5.30	Shirley
6.00	Shirley
6.30	Shirley
7.00	Shirley
7.30	Shirley
8.00	Shirley
8.30	Shirley
9.00	Shirley
9.30	Shirley
10.00	Shirley
10.30	Shirley
11.00	Shirley
11.30	Shirley
12.00	Shirley
12.30	Shirley
13.00	Shirley
13.30	Shirley
14.00	Shirley
14.30	Shirley
15.00	Shirley
15.30	Shirley
16.00	Shirley
16.30	Shirley
17.00	Shirley
17.30	Shirley
18.00	Shirley
18.30	Shirley
19.00	Shirley
19.30	Shirley
20.00	Shirley
20.30	Shirley
21.00	Shirley
21.30	Shirley
22.00	Shirley
22.30	Shirley
23.00	Shirley
23.30	Shirley
24.00	Shirley
24.30	Shirley
25.00	Shirley
25.30	Shirley
26.00	Shirley
26.30	Shirley
27.00	Shirley
27.30	Shirley
28.00	Shirley
28.30	Shirley
29.00	Shirley
29.30	Shirley
30.00	Shirley
30.30	Shirley
31.00	Shirley
31.30	Shirley
32.00	Shirley
32.30	Shirley
33.00	Shirley
33.30	Shirley
34.00	Shirley
34.30	Shirley
35.00	Shirley
35.30	Shirley
36.00	Shirley
36.30	Shirley
37.00	Shirley
37.30	Shirley
38.00	Shirley
38.30	Shirley
39.00	Shirley
39.30	Shirley
40.00	Shirley
40.30	Shirley
41.00	Shirley
41.30	Shirley
42.00	Shirley
42.30	Shirley
43.00	Shirley
43.30	Shirley
44.00	Shirley
44.30	Shirley
45.00	Shirley
45.30	Shirley
46.00	Shirley
46.30	Shirley
47.00	Shirley
47.30	Shirley
48.00	Shirley
48.30	Shirley
49.00	Shirley
49.30	Shirley
50.00	Shirley
50.30	Shirley
51.00	Shirley
51.30	Shirley
52.00	Shirley
52.30	Shirley
53.00	Shirley
53.30	Shirley
54.00	Shirley
54.30	Shirley
55.00	Shirley
55.30	Shirley
56.00	Shirley
56.30	Shirley
57.00	Shirley
57.30	Shirley
58.00	Shirley
58.30	Shirley
59.00	Shirley
59.30	Shirley
60.00	Shirley
60.30	Shirley
61.00	Shirley
61.30	Shirley
62.00	Shirley
62.30	Shirley
63.00	Shirley
63.30	Shirley
64.00	Shirley
64.30	Shirley
65.00	Shirley
65.30	Shirley
66.00	Shirley
66.30	Shirley
67.00	Shirley
67.30	Shirley
68.00	Shirley
68.30	Shirley
69.00	Shirley
69.30	Shirley
70.00	Shirley
70.30	Shirley
71.00	Shirley
71.30	Shirley
72.00	Shirley
72.30	Shirley
73.00	Shirley
73.30	Shirley
74.00	Shirley
74.30	Shirley
75.00	Shirley
75.30	Shirley
76.00	Shirley
76.30	Shirley
77.00	Shirley
77.30	Shirley
78.00	Shirley
78.30	Shirley
79.00	Shirley
79.30	Shirley
80.00	Shirley
80.30	Shirley
81.00	Shirley
81.30	Shirley
82.00	Shirley
82.30	Shirley
83.00	Shirley
83.30	Shirley
84.00	Shirley
84.30	Shirley
85.00	Shirley
85.30	Shirley
86.00	Shirley
86.30	Shirley
87.00	Shirley
87.30	Shirley
88.00	Shirley
88.30	Shirley
89.00	Shirley
89.30	Shirley
90.00	Shirley
90.30	Shirley
91.00	Shirley
91.30	Shirley
92.00	Shirley
92.30	Shirley
93.00	Shirley
93.30	Shirley
94.00	Shirley
94.30	Shirley
95.00	Shirley
95.30	Shirley
96.00	Shirley
96.30	Shirley
97.00	Shirley
97.30	Shirley
98.00	Shirley
98.30	Shirley
99.00	Shirley
99.30	Shirley
100.00	Shirley
100.30	Shirley

400/70	0000	400/20 (4) Sherrin 0-0	W. Palfrey
400/71	0003	Bartholomew (3) S. Maltby 0-0	W. Palfrey
400/72	0400	200/10 (4) M. Moore 0-0	W. Palfrey
400/73	0000	200/10 (4) M. Moore 0-0	W. Palfrey
400/74	0000	200/10 (4) M. Moore 0-0	W. Palfrey
400/75	0000	200/10 (4) M. Moore 0-0	W. Palfrey
400/76	0000	200/10 (4) M. Moore 0-0	W. Palfrey
400/77	0000	200/10 (4) M. Moore 0-0	W. Palfrey
400/78	0000	200/10 (4) M. Moore 0-0	W. Palfrey
400/79	0000	200/10 (4) M. Moore 0-0	W. Palfrey
400/80	0000	200/10 (4) M. Moore 0-0	W. Palfrey
400/81	0000	200/10 (4) M. Moore 0-0	W. Palfrey
400/82	0000	200/10 (4) M. Moore 0-0	W. Palfrey
400/83	0000	200/10 (4) M. Moore 0-0	W. Palfrey
400/84	0000	200/10 (4) M. Moore 0-0	W. Palfrey
400/85	0000	200/10 (4) M. Moore 0-0	W. Palfrey
400/86	0000	200/10 (4) M. Moore 0-0	W. Palfrey
400/87	0000	200/10 (4) M. Moore 0-0	W. Palfrey
400/88	0000	200/10 (4) M. Moore 0-0	W. Palfrey
400/89	0000	200/10 (4) M. Moore 0-0	W. Palfrey
400/90	0000	200/10 (4) M. Moore 0-0	W. Palfrey
400/91	0000	200/10 (4) M. Moore 0-0	W. Palfrey
400/92	0000	200/10 (4) M. Moore 0-0	W. Palfrey
400/93	0000	200/10 (4) M. Moore 0-0	W. Palfrey
400/94	0000	200/10 (4) M. Moore 0-0	W. Palfrey
400/95	0000	200/10 (4) M. Moore 0-0	W. Palfrey
400/96	0000	200/10 (4) M. Moore 0-0	W. Palfrey
400/97	0000	200/10 (4) M. Moore 0-0	W. Palfrey
400/98	0000	200/10 (4) M. Moore 0-0	W. Palfrey
400/99	0000	200/10 (4) M. Moore 0-0	W. Palfrey
400/100	0000	200/10 (4) M. Moore 0-0	W. Palfrey

Football

Resigned Robson opens sale talks on £5m Merson

Ian Ross

MIDDLESBROUGH are expected to announce within the next 24 hours that they are willing to sell Paul Merson, possibly to Tottenham Hotspur.

The 30-year-old England midfielder had been due to meet the Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson yesterday to discuss newspaper reports at the weekend that he wished to leave the North-east for personal and health reasons, but Merson did not travel from London.

Merson, a reformed alcoholic and compulsive gambler, believes that he runs the

risk of lapsing back into bad habits if he extends his brief relationship with Middlesbrough. "I asked to get away three times last season but it was all hushed up," he said. "I believe it is time to go. It is not a question of me wanting to go back down south as I have just bought a £400,000 house in Middlesbrough. But I have to sort things out."

"I was told that this season we would be building a team that would win trophies but it would appear we are not going to win anything. The fans deserve more than this. I feel the only solution is to get away."

Although Robson spent much of last week insisting that Merson would be remain-

ing to honour the five-year contract he signed four months ago, he is now resigned to the player's departure. Robson yesterday opened preliminary negotiations with the Aston Villa manager John Gregory, who indicated last Friday that he would be willing to pay £5 million to buy Merson as a replacement for Dwight Yorke, who joined Manchester United last month.

Tottenham, meanwhile, have let it be known that they would like to return Merson to the capital in a deal which could see the striker Chris Armstrong leave White Hart Lane for the Riverside Stadium.

Robson admitted yesterday

that he needed to lower the curtain on English football's latest unsavoury transfer saga. "I have read all the stories over the weekend and obviously things needed to be sorted out," he said. "I have spoken to Paul briefly on the telephone but you can't sort out something like this in that way."

"We have decided that we must meet face-to-face to discuss his situation at this club."

If he is allowed to leave Merson will follow Pierre van Hooijdonk and David Unsworth in lending credence to the theory that contracts within football are no longer worth the paper on which they are printed.

Ince fights to limit damage

PAUL INCE yesterday attempted to defend his conduct during England's European Championship defeat in Sweden which led to his dismissal and accusations that he had shouted obscenities at the referee and made a V-sign as he left the pitch.

The Liverpool captain, sent off by Pierluigi Collina for two bookable offences, said: "People have been trying to make something out of it all. It would be easy to forget they are English. They are trying to wind things up. All the 'other' stuff is a load of rubbish. I wasn't doing anything to the crowd and I don't care a monkey's what it looked like on TV. I know what I did and didn't do."

Ince believes he should only get a one-match ban for the two yellow-card offences, rather than heavier punishment which would follow if he were also found guilty of dissent. "Two yellow cards is a one-match ban. I'm gutted to be missing one international. Any attempt to make it any more would be very unfair," he said.

Another England player

busily defending himself yesterday was Tony Adams, who insisted that the controversy over his and Glenn Hoddle's

respective books should not have affected England's performance.

Alan Shearer, the England captain, had claimed: "All that stuff about the books that went on before the game didn't help and could have affected the players." But Adams, Arsenal's captain, claimed that his own below-par performance in the 2-1 defeat had nothing to do with the pre-match differences that emerged after the newspaper appearance of extracts from books by himself and the England coach.

"All I can say is that no words or no article have ever affected the way I play. I go out there and do my best and try to play football. Obviously sometimes I don't play well, but I can honestly say that no book, article or whatever affects the way I do my job."

Hoddle will clearly be hoping Ince escapes with a one-match ban, particularly as he believes the player had teamed up successfully with his Liverpool team-mate Jamie Redknapp who was making a comeback from injury.

"The risk there was that he [Redknapp] hadn't had much Premier League football, but I felt that the balance was there with Ince. Jamie played the ball excellently," he said.

Smith gives Protti a watching brief

WALTER SMITH, the Everton manager, hopes to persuade the Italian striker Igor Protti to move to Goodison Park from Lazio by taking him to watch the Premier League strugglers at Nottingham Forest tonight.

Smith's side have not scored so far this season.

Protti was due in Liverpool for talks with Smith after a travel mix-up on Sunday left the manager, his assistant Archie Knox and the club secretary Michael Dufford waiting at Manchester Airport.

If the striker, who joined Lazio from Roma, first over a year ago, can be convinced that he should switch to Everton on loan for a year he may make his debut at home to Leeds on Saturday. Lazio do not want to sell the 30-year-old Protti to another Italian club but are happy to let him move abroad.

The Coventry midfielder Noel Whelan will almost certainly miss tomorrow's match at Liverpool after being injured in a brawl at a party at the weekend.

Coventry's chairman Bryan Richardson said: "We will do everything we can to make sure he is

looked after properly and back playing for Coventry as quickly as we can. His own situation regarding police matters is not our responsibility and something he has got to deal with himself."

Michael Knighton, the Carlisle United chairman, has won substantial libel damages and his legal costs against Reed International Books. His complaint related to an article in The Sunday Times Illustrated History of Football concerning his aborted takeover of Manchester United.

St Johnstone yesterday named Sandy Clark as their manager in succession to Paul Sturrock, who joined Dundee United last week.

The European Commission has asked for more details of the proposed Super League after a meeting yesterday with Media Partners but has been happy to let him move abroad.

A spokesman for the European Commissioner Karel Van Miert, who does not favour the project, said Rodolfo Hecht-Lucarelli, chairman of Media Partners, had provided more detailed information of rules that would cover the project.



Magpies on manoeuvres... Rund Gullit directs Alan Shearer on the training pitch for the first time since taking up the managerial reins at Newcastle after the abrupt departure of Kenny Dalglish at the end of last month

PHOTOGRAPH BY LEE SMITH

Sparkling Diamonds set for Conference record

Jon Brodwin on how one man's vision of playing league football by the Millennium has taken giant strides towards becoming reality

RUSHDEN and Diamonds are 300 miles from claims to fame. David Ginola made his Newcastle debut there, the shirt worn by Eric Cantona in the 1994 FA Cup final hangs proudly in the club's executive suite, and the chairman Max Griggs is one of Britain's richest men.

But the Conference club may make a new name for themselves tonight. Victory at Dover would extend their 100 per cent start to the sea-

son to eight matches and overtake the league record set by Wycombe Wanderers six years ago.

It would also bring the dream of their multi-millionaire owner closer to reality. Griggs, who made his fortune manufacturing Max Griggs is one of Britain's richest men.

But the Conference club may make a new name for themselves tonight. Victory at Dover would extend their 100 per cent start to the sea-

son to eight matches and overtake the league record set by Wycombe Wanderers six years ago.

It would also bring the dream of their multi-millionaire owner closer to reality. Griggs, who made his fortune manufacturing Max Griggs is one of Britain's richest men.

But the Conference club may make a new name for themselves tonight. Victory at Dover would extend their 100 per cent start to the sea-

life after the amalgamation of Rushden Town and Irthlingborough Diamonds. Their first match, in the Southern League Midland Division, was watched by 215 people.

Six years, two promotions and around £10 million later they lead the Conference by six points.

Griggs, who made his fortune manufacturing Max Griggs is one of Britain's richest men.

But the Conference club may make a new name for themselves tonight. Victory at Dover would extend their 100 per cent start to the sea-

life after the amalgamation of Rushden Town and Irthlingborough Diamonds. Their first match, in the Southern League Midland Division, was watched by 215 people.

Six years, two promotions and around £10 million later they lead the Conference by six points.

Griggs, who made his fortune manufacturing Max Griggs is one of Britain's richest men.

But the Conference club may make a new name for themselves tonight. Victory at Dover would extend their 100 per cent start to the sea-

built a Doc Shop at the ground which sells boots of the non-footballing kind.

This season Rushden's manager Brian Talbot, once of Arsenal and England, has

planned to leave the club to take over at Reading. "The most important thing is to stay where we are," he said. "It's disappointing that there's only one promotion spot. Manchester United can finish second in the Championship and get into the Champions League. If you finish second in the Conference you fail."

Talbot has failed before. He was sacked by West Brom-

wich Albion in January 1991 after the FA Cup defeat by Woking and spent an unhappy period as joint owner of Kettering before moving to Malta.

He won two titles there with Hibernians but, desperate to return to England, accepted an offer from Griggs. "One of the things that persuaded me to come is that he said 'Let's have some fun and we do. Sometimes football is too serious. It's a game to be enjoyed and at times you have to be a good loser as well.'"

Dover are likely to find out about that tonight.

BERTI VOGTS resigned yesterday in the wake of his side's poor performances in recent friendlies against Malta and Romania. The European champions begin their title defence with a Group Three qualifier in Turkey next month.

The early favourite to take over is Jupp Heynckes, who has been backed by Vogts's predecessor Franz Beckenbauer.

Bulgaria, England's next Euro 2000 qualifying opponents on October 10, also need a new coach as Hristo Botev has quit following Sunday's 3-0 home defeat by Poland.

Vogts quits Germany job

BERTI VOGTS resigned yesterday in the wake of his side's poor performances in recent friendlies against Malta and Romania. The European champions begin their title defence with a Group Three qualifier in Turkey next month.

The early favourite to take over is Jupp Heynckes, who has been backed by Vogts's predecessor Franz Beckenbauer.

Bulgaria, England's next Euro 2000 qualifying opponents on October 10, also need a new coach as Hristo Botev has quit following Sunday's 3-0 home defeat by Poland.

Pools Forecast

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP			
1 Aston Villa	2 Blackburn	3 Arsenal	4 Manchester United
5 Liverpool	6 Chelsea	7 Tottenham	8 Newcastle
9 Everton	10 Leeds	11 Middlesbrough	12 Derby
13 Sheffield Wednesday	14 Nottingham Forest	15 Birmingham	16 Southampton
17 Watford	18 Wolves	19 Preston	20 Millwall
21 QPR	22 Reading	23 Luton	24 Barnsley
25 Bury	26 Shrewsbury	27 Notts County	28 Grimsby
29 Peterborough	30 Exeter City	31 Torquay	32 Yeovil
33 Walsley	34 Kidderminster	35 Hereford	36 Crawley
37 Dagenham	38 Maidstone	39 Stevenage	40 Southend
41 Hartlepool	42 Colchester	43 Braintree	44 Wealdstone
45 Havant	46 Woking	47 Farnham	48 Dorking
49 Maidstone	50 Dover	51 Maidstone	52 Maidstone

Results

EUROPEAN U-21 CHAMPIONSHIP			
1 France	2 Germany	3 Italy	4 Spain
5 Netherlands	6 Czech Republic	7 Belgium	8 Sweden
9 Portugal	10 Greece	11 Slovakia	12 Hungary
13 Poland	14 Austria	15 Switzerland	16 Slovenia
17 Croatia	18 Serbia	19 Montenegro	20 Macedonia
21 Bulgaria	22 Romania	23 Ukraine	24 Belarus
25 Kazakhstan	26 Uzbekistan	27 Kyrgyzstan	28 Tajikistan
29 Turkmenistan	30 Azerbaijan	31 Armenia	32 Georgia
33 Azerbaijan	34 Armenia	35 Georgia	36 Azerbaijan
37 Armenia	38 Georgia	39 Azerbaijan	40 Armenia
41 Georgia	42 Azerbaijan	43 Armenia	44 Georgia
45 Azerbaijan	46 Armenia	47 Georgia	48 Azerbaijan
49 Armenia	50 Georgia	51 Azerbaijan	52 Armenia

Ice Hockey

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS			
1 Canada	2 USA	3 Russia	4 Sweden
5 Finland	6 Czech Republic	7 Slovakia	8 Switzerland
9 Austria	10 Germany	11 Slovenia	12 Norway
13 France	14 Netherlands	15 Belgium	16 Italy
17 Poland	18 Austria	19 Germany	20 Slovakia
21 Switzerland	22 Norway	23 France	24 Netherlands
25 Belgium	26 Italy	27 Poland	28 Austria
29 Germany	30 Slovakia	31 Switzerland	32 Norway
33 France	34 Netherlands	35 Belgium	36 Italy
37 Poland	38 Austria	39 Germany	40 Slovakia
41 Switzerland	42 Norway	43 France	44 Netherlands
45 Belgium	46 Italy	47 Poland	48 Austria
49 Germany	50 Slovakia	51 Switzerland	52 Norway

Sport in brief

GOLF			
1 Tiger Woods	2 Phil Mickelson	3 Ernie Els	4 Vijay Singh
5 Retief Goosen	6 Fred Couples	7 Adam Long	8 David Duval
9 Steve Stricker	10 Matt Kuchar	11 Jason Dufur	12 Tim Lincecum
13 Scott Verplank	14 Ryan Spivey	15 Matt Jones	16 Matt Jones
17 Matt Jones	18 Matt Jones	19 Matt Jones	20 Matt Jones
21 Matt Jones	22 Matt Jones	23 Matt Jones	24 Matt Jones
25 Matt Jones	26 Matt Jones	27 Matt Jones	28 Matt Jones
29 Matt Jones	30 Matt Jones	31 Matt Jones	32 Matt Jones
33 Matt Jones	34 Matt Jones	35 Matt Jones	36 Matt Jones
37 Matt Jones	38 Matt Jones	39 Matt Jones	40 Matt Jones
41 Matt Jones	42 Matt Jones	43 Matt Jones	44 Matt Jones
45 Matt Jones	46 Matt Jones	47 Matt Jones	48 Matt Jones
49 Matt Jones	50 Matt Jones	51 Matt Jones	52 Matt Jones

Team talk

The independent news and reports service

09066 16 86 +

Aston Villa	60	Everton	78	QPR	86
Barnsley	61	Fulham	79	Rangers	87
Blackburn	62	Hull	80	Reading	88
Blackpool	63	Leeds	81	Sheff Wed	89
Birmingham	64	Leeds	82	Sheff Wed	90
Bolton	65	Leeds	83	Sheff Wed	91
Brentford	66	Liverpool	84	Sheff Wed	92
Burnley	67	Man City	85	Sheff Wed	93
Cardiff	68	Man United	86	Sheff Wed	94
Charlton	69	Middlesbrough	87	Sheff Wed	95
Chelsea	70	Millwall	88	Sheff Wed	96
Coventry City	71	Newcastle	89	Sheff Wed	97
Crystal Palace	72	Norwich	90	Sheff Wed	98
Dorset County	73	Norwich	91	Sheff Wed	99
Dorset County	74	Norwich	92	Sheff Wed	100

CALLS COST 60P PER MIN AT ALL TIMES
SUPPLIED BY: 15 MARK LANE, LONDON E15 1LH. TEL: 0171 713 4473

The Guardian INTERACTIVE

Team talk

The independent news and reports service

09066 16 86 +

Aston Villa	60	Everton	78	QPR	86
Barnsley	61	Fulham	79	Rangers	87
Blackburn	62	Hull	80	Reading	88
Blackpool	63	Leeds	81	Sheff Wed	89
Birmingham	64	Leeds	82	Sheff Wed	90
Bolton	65	Leeds	83	Sheff Wed	91
Brentford	66	Liverpool	84	Sheff Wed	92
Burnley	67	Man City	85	Sheff Wed	93
Cardiff	68	Man United	86	Sheff Wed	94
Charlton	69	Middlesbrough	87	Sheff Wed	95
Chelsea	70	Millwall	88	Sheff Wed	96
Coventry City	71	Newcastle	89	Sheff Wed	97
Crystal Palace	72	Norwich	90	Sheff Wed	98
Dorset County	73	Norwich	91	Sheff Wed	99
Dorset County	74	Norwich	92	Sheff Wed	100

CALLS COST 60P PER MIN AT ALL TIMES
SUPPLIED BY: 15 MARK LANE, LONDON E15 1LH. TEL: 0171 713 4473

The Guardian INTERACTIVE

Team talk

The independent news and reports service

09066 16 86 +

Aston Villa	60	Everton	78	QPR	86
Barnsley	61	Fulham	79	Rangers	87
Blackburn	62	Hull	80	Reading	88
Blackpool	63	Leeds	81	Sheff Wed	89
Birmingham	64	Leeds	82	Sheff Wed	90
Bolton	65	Leeds	83	Sheff Wed	91
Brentford	66	Liverpool	84	Sheff Wed	92
Burnley	67	Man City	85	Sheff Wed	93
Cardiff	68	Man United	86	Sheff Wed	94
Charlton	69	Middlesbrough	87	Sheff Wed	95
Chelsea	70	Millwall	88	Sheff Wed	96
Coventry City	71	Newcastle	89	Sheff Wed	97
Crystal Palace	72	Norwich	90	Sheff Wed	98
Dorset County	73	Norwich	91	Sheff Wed	99
Dorset County	74	Norwich	92	Sheff Wed	100

CALLS COST 60P PER MIN AT ALL TIMES
SUPPLIED BY: 15 MARK LANE, LONDON E15 1LH. TEL: 0171 713 4473

The Guardian INTERACTIVE

Team talk

The independent news and reports service

09066 16 86 +

Aston Villa	60	Everton	78	QPR	86
Barnsley	61	Fulham	79	Rangers	87
Blackburn	62	Hull	80	Reading	88
Blackpool	63	Leeds	81	Sheff Wed	89
Birmingham	64	Leeds	82	Sheff Wed	90
Bolton	65	Leeds	83	Sheff Wed	91
Brentford	66	Liverpool	84	Sheff Wed	92
Burnley	67	Man City	85	Sheff Wed	93
Cardiff	68	Man United	86	Sheff Wed	94
Charlton	69	Middlesbrough	87	Sheff Wed	95
Chelsea	70	Millwall	88	Sheff Wed	96
Coventry City	71	Newcastle	89	Sheff Wed	97
Crystal Palace	72	Norwich	90	Sheff Wed	98
Dorset County	73	Norwich	91	Sheff Wed	99
Dorset County	74	Norwich	92	Sheff Wed	100

CALLS COST 60P PER MIN AT ALL TIMES
SUPPLIED BY: 15 MARK LANE, LONDON E15 1LH. TEL: 0171 713 4473

The Guardian INTERACTIVE

Manage
News Gr
exit

Tennis

Teenager shows Graf the exit

Stephen Bierley at Flushing Meadows on a former champion's US Open defeat

SHE has given no hint that she is contemplating retirement, although she continues to insist that she enters each tournament "with no expectations whatsoever". But for the second Grand Slam event in succession since her comeback, Steffi Graf failed here.

The German's tournament victory in New Haven just prior to this US Open — when she defeated both Jana Novotna, the current world No. 2, and Lindsay Davenport, the No. 3 — had raised hopes that at 29 she might be on the point of re-emerging as a major force, but under the floodlights of Flushing Meadows she was unceremoniously cut down in the fourth round by Switzerland's Patty Schnyder.

In truth this was hardly a shock. Schnyder, currently ranked No. 10, is the most successful player on the women's circuit this year, having won five tournaments, and is fast stepping out of the shadow of her more illustrious compatriot Martina Hingis.

Graf was in trouble from the start against the 19-year-old left-hander, making unforced error after unforced error and eventually losing 6-3, 6-4. It made for unhappy watching, for nobody enjoys seeing a former champion playing like a novice.

Graf has won the US Open title five times, the last in 1996, but knee surgery last year saw her miss all the season after the French Open, and her return has been a stuttering affair. She survived two rounds at Wimbledon but went out in straight sets to Natasha Zvereva of Belarus, who in 18 previous meetings had never beaten her.

With Novotna winning Wimbledon for the first time this year at 29, there is no reason to suppose Graf is incapable of adding to her 21 Grand Slam titles — provided the left knee holds up.

She has long been the supreme athlete, dancing around her vulnerable backhand to crack forehands of withering power. But against Schnyder she often appeared shaky. It may have been nerves from which she has always suffered, brought on by her lack of match play. But the suspicion is that the knee has not fully recovered and that her career at the top is effectively over.

Whereas Graf's departure prompted sadness, nobody

shared a row of beans when Chile's Marcelo Rios, the men's second seed, was knocked out in the third round by Sweden's Magnus Larsson 6-1, 6-7, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2. Rios, one of the most gifted players on a men's circuit notably short of talent, remains infuriatingly inconsistent and, worse, rarely appears bothered when he loses.

When the pony-tailed Chilean reached the final of this year's Australian Open and then won the titles in Indian Wells, Key Biscayne and Roma this spring to briefly take the No. 1 ranking away from Pete Sampras, there seemed good reason to suppose he was truly about to make his mark at Grand Slam level. But he has slipped back and recently parted from his coach Larry Stefanki.

"I think it's not the end of the world losing this match," he said. In truth New York barely noticed.

However, it was good news for Tim Henman, as was the departure of the Dutchman Richard Krajicek, the fifth seed, whose knee problems flared up against another Swede, Thomas Johansson, forcing him to retire. Both Rios and Krajicek were in the British No. 1's half of the draw.

Henman's fourth-round opponent today is Australia's huge-serving Mark Philippoussis, who prior to Wimbledon was threatening to quit tennis. But a fresh haircut, and a fresh attitude, saw him reach the quarter-finals there, where he lost to Sampras, as did Henman one round later.

The two have met twice before, Henman defeating the 21-year-old Melbourne-born player 6-4, 6-2 in Sydney two years ago and then losing 7-6, 6-4 indoors in Basel last year. The Briton will fancy his chances of reaching the quarter-finals here, with Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov his likely opponent.



Graf... knee still a worry

Lancashire lift their second trophy in two days



That winning feeling... tired, despite what it says on the shirt, but happy, Wasim Akram proudly holds the AXA League trophy after yesterday's victory

PHOTOGRAPH: BEN DUFFY

AXA League: Lancashire v Hampshire

Two down, one to go for Wasim's men

Andy Wilson sees the Red Rose defy battle fatigue to set up a treble chance

WASIM AKRAM yesterday lifted Lancashire's second one-day trophy inside 30 hours after leading his side to a 16-run victory over Hampshire.

Lancashire hope to win the County Championship as well, so perhaps the Monopoly and Mergers Commission should investigate recent developments at cricket's Old Trafford too.

Lancashire's storming end to the season is all the more commendable given the uncertainty over Wasim's future with the club. The committee are expected to announce today that they have signed Mithal Muralitharan as their overseas player for next season, with John Crawley replacing Wasim as captain.

Yet Wasim appeared more determined than ever to complete a treble with Lanca-

shire's first outright championship since 1934 — a dream he has cherished since joining them in 1988. "I would like to stay because I love this county," he said. "But if not it would be nice to go out on a high."

For much of this game there appeared a real danger that Hampshire would win and keep Essex's title hopes alive at least until tomorrow, when Lancashire play a day-night match at Trent Bridge. Lancashire should have scored considerably more than 302 and Hampshire were well-placed with 10 overs remaining, needing 74 with Robin Smith going well and eight wickets in hand.

But the bulk of a 4,425 crowd never lost faith, and with good reason. Glen Chappell, who failed to take a wicket in the weekend's NatWest final, had Smith

caught behind off the bottom edge, leaving Ian Austin, Peter Martin and Wasim to secure victory.

Lancashire have played music to great boundaries and wickets at every AXA match this season and it has never been more incongruous than when a blast of Hallelujah greeted Martin's dismissal of Will Kendall with a full toss which Kendall thick-edged to Austin at third man.

However, it seemed more appropriate for a spectacular boundary catch by Chapple to send back Nixon McLean, and the 1812 Overture, followed by We Are The Champions, were predictable when victory had been sealed. Surprisingly, given Lancashire's reputation as limited-overs specialists, this was their first title in what used to be the Sunday League since 1989 and only their fourth in all.

For much of the afternoon their performance was that of a tired team, understandable after a long coach journey north the previous evening.

Mike Atherton was missing with a recurrence of his back problem and they slipped to 50 for three before a partnership of 110 in 16 overs between Graham Lloyd and Andy Flintoff.

For Flintoff an innings of 69 from 58 balls represented public therapy after an horrific run which had brought him 110 runs from 16 innings in all forms of cricket since a match-winning 70 against

Warwickshire on June 29. He hit three sixes, two straight off Shaun Udal and a fierce pull over square leg off McLean. But his dismissal, a victim of his own power as he mistimed a full toss to long on, triggered a thoroughly uncharacteristic collapse as Lancashire lost seven wickets for 62 in the last nine overs.

Lloyd was stumped down the leg side off John Stephenson, Dimitri Mascarenhas took a sharp return catch to dismiss Wasim, and McLean polished off the tail so effectively that Lancashire were bowled out with two balls of their 40 overs remaining.

But again their supreme efficiency in the field won through. On Sunday, Austin, complaining that Saturday's rain had disrupted Lancashire's usual celebrations by preventing a finish that day, had said: "But if we win tomorrow we'll have a real good night on Monday." The match at Trent Bridge tomorrow thus promises to be a stern test even for Lancashire.

League table

	P	W	L	D	N	Pts
Lancashire	10	12	0	3	0	24
Warwickshire	10	8	5	0	3	16
Leeds	10	8	5	0	3	16
Gloucestershire	10	8	5	0	3	16
Yorkshire	10	8	5	0	3	16
Nottinghamshire	10	8	5	0	3	16
Derbyshire	10	8	5	0	3	16
Essex	10	8	5	0	3	16
Northamptonshire	10	8	5	0	3	16
Hampshire	10	8	5	0	3	16
Surrey	10	8	5	0	3	16
Worcestershire	10	8	5	0	3	16
Kent	10	8	5	0	3	16
Devon	10	8	5	0	3	16
Somerset	10	8	5	0	3	16
Gloucestershire	10	8	5	0	3	16
Yorkshire	10	8	5	0	3	16
Nottinghamshire	10	8	5	0	3	16
Derbyshire	10	8	5	0	3	16
Essex	10	8	5	0	3	16
Northamptonshire	10	8	5	0	3	16
Hampshire	10	8	5	0	3	16
Surrey	10	8	5	0	3	16
Worcestershire	10	8	5	0	3	16
Kent	10	8	5	0	3	16
Devon	10	8	5	0	3	16
Somerset	10	8	5	0	3	16

1997 positions in parentheses

Athletics

Fredericks is latest Games withdrawal

Duncan Mackay in Johannesburg

FRANKIE FREDERICKS is the latest of the world's top sprinters to withdraw from the 100m event at the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur next week, throwing wide open a race that was won four years ago by Linford Christie.

"I'm definitely not going," said the Olympic silver medalist at 100m and 200m, who is preparing to compete in the World Cup final for Africa here at the weekend. "It's too much at the end of a long season. My body needs a break, and I don't want to risk injury."

Four of the world's fastest sprinters this year are eligible to compete in the Games but none will. The world-record holder Donovan Bailey, his Canadian teammate Bruny Surin and Trinidad's Ato Boldon all announced last month they would not be running. Boldon tops the year's world rankings with 9.85sec, followed by Surin (9.88) and Bailey and Fredericks (both 9.93). In addition, Nigeria's suspension from the Commonwealth rules out Sean Ogunkeya, No. 7 in the world with 9.94.

Fredericks threatened to boycott the Games earlier this year because he had still not received the 100m bronze medal he won in Victoria in 1994 after the runner-up Horace Dove-Edwin was disqualified for drugs. He confirmed last night he had received the medal and fitness alone explained his withdrawal.

It leaves Obadiah Thompson of Barbados, who has run 10.00 this summer, as the favourite but England's Darren Campbell, who ran 10.04 to win the European title in Budapest last month, must be in contention, as Doug Walker will be in the 200m if he recovers from knee surgery in time. Fredericks is the 200m champion.

Rowing

Attrill strokes eight into contention

Christopher Dodd in Cologne

THE British men's eight showed the signs of their new order and summer training camp when they came a good second to Germany in a heat of the World Championships. Though this condenses them to a repechage tomorrow, medal contention on Sunday.

The eight, which ranks as the second boat after the flagship four of James Cracknell, Steve Redgrave, Tim Foster, and Matthew Pinsent, changed their order after coming third in the final round of the World Cup in Lucerne in July. The switch of Louis Attrill to stroke, coupled with concentrated time together, looks to have been productive. If they are not looking at gold, they should compete for the silver and bronze with the Americans, Russia, Canada and Romania.

The lightweight four find themselves in much the same situation. Having struggled to click all season, they made Denmark, the Olympic and world champions, work hard to preserve their unbeaten record. Second place, as with the eight, means a repechage but they should have the confidence now to challenge the Danes again on Sunday.

The key to their spirit is absolute commitment to the boat. There are no lightweight eights in the Olympics and those in that event here hoping to jump ship to the four in 2000 may be unlucky. James Brown, Tim McNiven, Dave Leman and John Warne could close the door on them this week.

Others to progress yesterday were Nick Strange and Adam Grey, who qualified for the semi-finals of the lightweight pairs, and Tracy Langford and Jane Hall, who lands the same stage of the lightweight double sculls.

Motor Racing

Herbert leaves Sauber to join Stewart

JOHNNY HERBERT will switch to the Stewart-Ford team for the 1999 Formula One world championship after three largely fruitless seasons with Sauber.

The signing of the 34-year-old British driver, who has been a test driver for the team since 1996, has been tipped to stay as Herbert's team-mate. The deal has not yet been finalised but if it is, Stewart's other driver, Jos Verstappen, would be the odd man out.

"We all want to progress and win races. Hopefully my experience will help Ford and Stewart to achieve those targets," Herbert said. "The team is still in its infancy. They are

disappointed with what they've had this season, but you learn from things like that and learn what to improve."

Ford was particularly anxious that Stewart should recruit a driver with a proven record. Brazil's Rubens Barrichello has been tipped to stay as Herbert's team-mate. The deal has not yet been finalised but if it is, Stewart's other driver, Jos Verstappen, would be the odd man out.

"As a British team it is very nice for us to have a British driver with so much experience," said Jackie Stewart. "We are looking forward to

working with him." Ford's motorsport director Martin Whitaker added: "Johnny is a wonderful motivator."

Herbert won the 1995 British and Italian Grands Prix, both successes achieved after his Benetton team-mate Michael Schumacher collided with Damon Hill's Williams, but did not continue with the team the following year.

Herbert is now virtually certain to find himself lining up on the same grid as his former Lotus Formula One team-mate Alex Zanardi, who on Sunday clinched the CART championship for the second

successive year by finishing fourth at Vancouver.

It is expected that Zanardi will be confirmed as the new Williams signing for 1999, partnering Ralf Schumacher and displacing Heinz-Harald Frentzen, who is being tipped to take his fellow German's position alongside Damon Hill at Jordan.

A further reminder of the small world of international racing is that the Vancouver race was the second successive CART victory for the Scot Dario Franchitti, a protégé of the Stewart dynasty from the time he contested the 1994

British Formula Three championship under the Paul Stewart Racing banner.

During that Formula One season Franchitti was eclipsed by his team-mate Jan Magnussen who went on to partner Barrichello in the Stewart-Ford team only to be dropped before this year's French Grand Prix after a succession of disappointing performances.

It does not take too much imagination to see Franchitti, who is managed by Jacques Villeneuve's mentor Craig Pollock, following Zanardi back across the Atlantic.

Ice Hockey

Newcastle call all the shots by ignoring change

Vic Batchelder

ALEX DAMPIER believes Newcastle's 4-3 home win over Cardiff in Sunday's Benson and Hedges Cup game was largely down to his team "playing it the same old way".

The result was a major surprise on the first weekend of competitive games played under the new rule doing away with the offside pass over two lines. Now a player may pass the puck from his team's defensive zone to a team-mate beyond the centre-ice red line without offside being called.

The International Ice Hockey Federation's ruling was intended to speed up play, but the early signs are that the reverse might be the case with teams resorting to the equivalent of football's long-ball game.

"I told our guys to ignore the change, just do what comes naturally," said the Newcastle coach. "That was a factor in our win; Cardiff resorted to rushing guys forward hoping a defenceman would find them way no the ice. Instead we picked off the passes at centre ice."

With two goals from Blake Knox, the win was just what Dampier and the general manager Mike O'Connor needed to overcome local animosity towards the previous owners, Newcastle Sporting Club, which gave up the franchise last May.

Unable to find new owners, Superleague stepped in, formed their own company to run the team until buyers could be found, and installed Dampier and O'Connor, both moving from Sheffield. "The fans here want to see a team that's going to work hard, and that's one thing we've promised them," said Dampier. "Last night that was just what they got."

American Football

Hearst record run sinks Jets

Mark Tran sees the season kick-off with a last-gasp victory for San Francisco 49ers

A SPECTACULAR 96-yard burst by Garrison Hearst in overtime allowed the San Francisco 49ers to scrape past the ever-improving New York Jets, who showed they can play with the best under the tough coaching of Bill Parcells.

"You can't be more disappointed than I am right now," Parcells said. "That was a tough one to lose. It came down to just being able to concentrate long enough to win one of these, but we just didn't do it. I hope we take this, build on it."

The 49ers were pushed to the limit despite playing at home on a sunny if windy day. The winning play came as San Francisco sought breathing room for Steve Young to mount one of his patented late drives. Hearst spared Young and his receivers the trouble.

sees, stiffarmed the rookie safety Kevin Williams at the 20, stormed past some feeble tackles, picked up some blocks downfield and was home to give the 49ers a 36-30 win.

It was the longest run from scrimmage in the 49ers' history, providing a dramatic climax to an aerial duel between Young and Glenn Foley, making his first opening-day start. "I just wanted to hit the hole quick and get what I could. Things happened after that," said Hearst, who rushed for 187 yards and two touchdowns on 20 carries.

Foley proved just as effective as Young as both threw for three TDs. Foley carried the Jets attack, aided by receivers Wayne Chabot and Keyshawn Johnson, whose play has not always matched his rhetoric on and off the field. Johnson, a great admirer of Jerry Rice, even intervened in an argument to calm down his idol.

With the 49ers massing at the line of scrimmage to stop the running-back Curtis Martin, Parcells switched to a passing attack, with surprising success.

Foley passed for 415 yards; Johnson and Chabot had 100-yard receiving games and both caught TDs. Johnson exploded for two dazzling TDs of 41 and 21 yards, showing the potential to be the next Jerry Rice. Rice showed that he can still play after devastating injuries last year — torn knee ligaments followed by a cracked kneecap in his left leg.

He scored a 14-yard TD after catching a pass near the sideline and easily springing past the cornerback Ray Mickens. The game's spectacular finish was set up by J.J. Stokes's leaping 32-yard catch from Young in front of a Jets defender with 1min 26sec left, giving San Francisco a 30-27 lead. The Jets came right back, putting together a 60-yard drive, culminating in a 31-yard field goal from John Hall to tie the game. Hearst then uncorked his game-winning run in overtime.

Rugby Union

Scottish union surprises clubs on district line

Robert Armstrong

SCOTTISH clubs were caught off balance yesterday by a broad hint from Murrayfield that the district sides Glasgow Caledonians and Edinburgh Reivers may be put up for sale when a British League gets off the ground next year. In effect the Scottish Rugby Union called on potential private investors to throw their hats into the ring.

Duncan Paterson, chairman of the SRU executive council, floated the proposal as a means of cutting costs and allowing the SRU to devote more of its financial resources to improving the grassroots game. It is the first sign that the SRU, under pressure to balance its books, may consider relaxing its iron control of domestic rugby.

"The money going in wages to Glasgow and Edinburgh could be better spread throughout the clubs from top to bottom," said Paterson. The SRU will pick up the bill when Glasgow and Edinburgh take part in this season's European

Cup, a competition that without the participation of English clubs has yet to make a television agreement or find an official sponsor.

Paterson believes the district sides, who have lured a number of high-profile Scottish exiles back from England, will eventually prove an attractive asset to the British League. However, the SRU's insistence on keeping control of all TV contracts relating to Scottish rugby is likely to be a major deterrent to would-be buyers, who would be dependent on gate revenue plus sponsorship to run their franchises.

The economic contradictions in SRU policy — keep the TV money while offloading the wage bill of district players — will not be lost on the leading Scottish clubs who would themselves like to be in a position to acquire millionaire benefactors. The likes of Melrose, Watsonians and Hawick have been rigorously excluded from the corridors of SRU power where European issues and TV deals tend to be settled.

Favourite pulls out of St Leger, page 13
Spurs head the queue for Merson, page 14

Lancashire land their second trophy, page 15
Graf hustled out of the Open, page 15

SportsGuardian

Business as usual for Manchester United



Cliff hanger... Manchester United go through the motions of normality but, with their future up in the air, not to say Sky, Alex Ferguson's head goes down at the club's training ground. The Cliff, while the players follow the party line and understandably find it difficult to keep their eye on the ball. PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS NELL

Spurs face £5m tag on Graham

Martin Thorpe finds Leeds trying to hang on to their manager with a pre-emptive strike and a typically defensive approach

LEEDS UNITED placed a £5 million price tag on their manager George Graham yesterday but it is unlikely to prevent Tottenham Hotspur making a formal approach for his services. The Yorkshire club also said they would refuse Spurs permission to speak to Graham if that formal approach were made. But, again, this is unlikely to frighten off the London club, who are seeking to replace Christian Gross, who was sacked on Saturday. Leeds are well enough versed in the ways of modern football to know that, if Graham wants to leave, there is

little the club can do about it, whether they refuse permission or not. If Graham did want to leave, Leeds would probably bow to the inevitable and negotiate a sensible compensation package to clear the decks for a new manager. Although Leeds confirmed

that no official approach has been made, they are desperate to keep a man who has significantly improved the team's performance in the two years since he took over from Howard Wilkinson. Despite operating on a tight budget Graham led the team to UEFA Cup qualification last season, at the same time rebuilding his own reputation after the bung scandal at Arsenal which brought him a one-year ban from the game.

The premise for Leeds's £5 million compensation assessment is based on the contract Graham signed in December, which takes him to 2001 on a salary of £1 million a year. That agreement, say Leeds, includes a clause stating that any club wishing to speak to Graham must pay £1 million and, if they land their man, must pay up Graham's contract and an extra £1 million in compensation. The Leeds chairman Peter Risdale added another barrier when he said: "I have said consistently that George Graham is under contract to us. The board's reaction to anyone coming in for him would be to refuse them permission to talk to him."

Although it is understood Graham would like a move back to London, he played down the speculation yesterday. "Every time a job comes up it seems my name is linked with it," he said. "I am not giving these stories credibility by commenting on them." However, Graham knows it would be improper for him to comment before a formal approach is made. Only then could he reveal the Leeds board any interest he might have in the Spurs job.

If a manager wants to leave a club, he can in theory walk out. The club can try to enforce his contract through the courts but that involves a long, costly and messy process. Even if the club win, there is little benefit in an unmotivated and disenchanted manager. A club will normally accept their losing hand. If Graham does end up leaving, Leeds are likely to turn to Kenny Dalglish. The board is known to admire the talents of the former Liverpool and Newcastle manager and would be prepared to give him the time, denied him by the directors at St James' Park, to build a championship-challenging team. Tony Adams gave a surprise vote of confidence to Tottenham yesterday over their supposed interest in Graham. "I love George, he was very good for me," he said. "We had a hell of a relationship here and I think he is a great manager. If he got the Tottenham job I am sure he would do fantastically well there, like he did at Arsenal and like he is doing at Leeds. I respect any good player or manager and he would be a good choice for Spurs."

Say what you like about that Murdoch ...



Jim White

IT IS not easy to write this. For a pontificator whose livelihood is based on the paper-thin pretence of infallibility, it is the journalistic equivalent of a suicide note. But I was wrong, wronger than a Shane Warne wrong 'em on a turning wicket.

My inaccuracy in front of goal makes Stéphane Guivarc'h look a quality finisher. So out of touch am I, my only future is as an adviser to William Hague.

For years I have been wedded to the romantic notion that if football forgets about its grass roots, alienates its core support and squeezes out the humble punter, it will die. And I was wrong.

Here's how wrong I was: I predicted the Premier League was a latterday South Sea Bubble about to burst. I reckoned too much live television would suffocate interest. I confidently announced Bury '96 was the peak and that, once the reality of dull all-millers on wet Wednesdays in January kicked in, the bandwagon would roll elsewhere.

With the news of Rupert Murdoch's mooted takeover of Manchester United I have been forced to raise the white flag and retreat into a shed in the garden with a sign on the door which reads: "Luddite. Please do not disturb".

This is the new reality: what Murdoch has done by his bid is to alter the entire proposition of English league football. At a stroke he has internationalised it, propelled it towards a vast new market, ensured it will become the major player in the world's game. And at the same time he has probably signed the death warrant for a couple of dozen small clubs.

Murdoch's bid for United absolutely fits into his business strategy. For a while he was rumoured to be interested in Spurs. But leaks of a deal to bail out Alan Sugar were clearly a smoke-screen for the Digger's real motives: why would he waste time with an operation in crisis when he has the resources to buy in at the top of the market?

With United in his portfolio he will own the software to complement the hardware of his broadcasting arm. When he transmits matches over his satellite operation in China

and the Far East he can cross-promote United merchandise: when his American pay-per-view channels start offering a service of Premier League football into the homes of Californian "Soccer Moms", he will take a handy slice of the cash generated by the United shirts their offspring will demand.

In Australia, Singapore and South Africa the opportunities for selling are enough to send even his eyes spinning like cartoon fruit machines. As a true internationalist he is aware of the vast potential that Premier League football has to become the world's favourite sporting brand.

And now he is in the position to ensure it does. In five years' time, when Martin Edwards sees what Rupert Murdoch has done with the organisation he once owned, he will wince at how cheap he sold it. That £80 million he will trouser from this deal will look very small beer.

ONE thing is certain for the supporter in England: things will change when this bid goes through. They will change to suit the major bank-roller of the operation, Sky Television. Until now United, as the biggest player in negotiations, acted as a check and balance in Sky. In the future, when the head of Sky sits down with the chairman of our biggest club to decide how much money should be paid for the rights to screen matches, only a minor need he involved.

Thus pay-per-view of Premier League matches — which was put on hold this year only because United would not agree a fee and started investigating the possibility of a channel of their own — will become a reality.

Likewise a pay-per-view European Conference without promotion and relegation will follow. It will be a huge money-maker, with millions watching in pubs and grounds filled by event junkies anxious to be seen at the big occasions and prepared to pay through the nose for the privilege.

Moreover it will be in United's commercial interest to ensure that spending money allocated to football in British households is taken by pay-per-view subscriptions rather than at the turnstiles of smaller clubs, pushing wobbling outfits into bankruptcy. As for me, you will catch me in front of the television. As a football fan I will have little option but to take up one of Murdoch's impending offers. And he knows it.

Football meltdown, 62



QUICK

FIX

These are the facts. There is no tooth fairy. Santa Claus does not exist. There will be no quick fix for the Millennium Bug. Your business is at risk if you do not act now. Action 2000 has been set up to help. You'd better call us. Quick.

actnow! Call **0845 601 2000** for your free Action Pack.

For your free Action Pack send this coupon to Action 2000, PO Box 1999, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 9SS, fax us on 01923 474 514, call 0845 601 2000 or visit our website at www.action2000.co.uk

Name

Position Company

Address

Postcode

Business Type No. of Employees ☐ 1-4 ☐ 5-9 ☐ 10-29 ☐ 30-49 ☐ 50+

TG4501



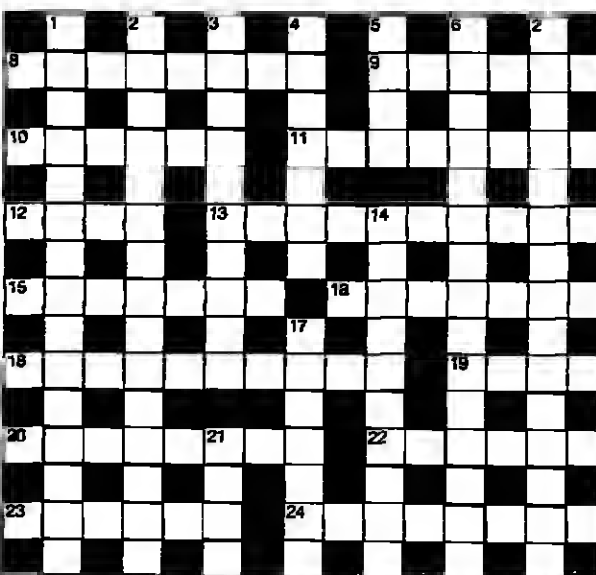
It is a show of artists mining what few seams there are left, staking claims on abandoned lots, claiming territory not their own and doing things any sensible person would say weren't worth attempting in the first place.

Adrian Searle on Young Americans

G2 p8

Guardian Crossword No 21,374

Set by Paul

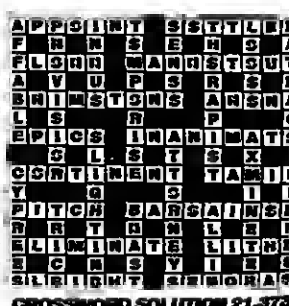


Across

- 8 Rupees as fake as a shark's wallet? (3,5)
- 9 Topping fruit, the pineapple (6)
- 10 Yarn attributed to Homer in 'Odyssey' (6)
- 11 DTT reshuffle holds back absurd poet (8)
- 12 Newspaper requires a series of notes (4)
- 13,18 PC Short cleverly called a night manoeuvre (10,10)
- 15 Those who should reform did reform in book (7)
- 16 Sleep disturbed by partners' organs (7)
- 18 See 13
- 19 Pulls boats (4)
- 20 Forty mad cows rushed around (8)
- 22 National hero's comeback asks for a lot of time (6)

Down

- 1 Children's work must be safe, scoffed granny (5,3,3,4)
- 2 Capitol deception leading to the deceptively obvious? (7,8)
- 3 'Evergreen Air Fresh', and avert BO (5,5)
- 4 Black magic is boring without sn (7)
- 5 See 23
- 6 Politician, the usual weird Martian alien (15)
- 7 Then all see grand Brahms and Liszt opera (6,3,6)
- 14 Paul's in jail (holding US money) for obstruction (10)
- 17 Monstrous duck silent movie actress carries about (7)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 21,373

21 Stone needs working with axes (4)

Solution tomorrow

Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 338 228. Calls cost 50p per minute at all times. Service supplied by KTS.



ASFP/ST